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Arizona's Pioneer Heritage
A Great Legacy

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Arizona's 130 Years of Pioneer Heritage

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Mesa's pioneer "founding fathers" and leaders of the First Mesa Company, Charles Crismon, Frances Pomeroy, Charles Robson, and George W. Sirrine, are memorialized in a statue in Mesa's Pioneer Park across from the Mesa Temple at 526 E. Main.

July 24 marks the 160th anniversary of the arrival of the first pioneer settlers to the Salt Lake Valley. And, though not marked by celebrations like Utah's Pioneer Days, Arizona, too, has its own "Pioneer Day"—as the first group of Mormon settlers arrived in the Mesa area nearly 30 years later.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The influence of those pioneers can be seen across the state and, even today, many communities are populated by descendants of those early settlers.

According to historian, W. Earl Merrill, "The July 24th pioneers were but the forerunners of thousands more who would migrate to the Great Basin and neighboring areas in the ensuing years…"

In One Hundred Steps Down Mesa's Past, one of four books he wrote about the history of Mesa, Merrill explains,

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"Mormon colonists, in most cases, were called to participate in the founding of the new settlement, often from the pulpit in a session of general conference, as were the Lehi pioneers in October of 1876. Such a call had the same status as a missionary call…The participants were called colonizing missionaries."

The Mormon Battalion, a unit of men who joined the U.S. Army during the Mexican War had marched through Arizona in 1847. Church leaders had learned from Battalion members that the Indians in Arizona were friendly and that the land was suitable for agriculture.

Charles I. Robson

Daniel Webster Jones, who had already been on a mission to the Indians in the Valley in 1875, was called to a colonizing mission in 1876 and, in his book, "Forty Years Among the Indians," he explains:

"On meeting President [Brigham] Young…he said, 'I would like to have you pick a few families and take charge of them and go into the far south and start a settlement. Would you like to do it?'

"I answered, 'Yes, I will go.'"

"'Whom would you like to go with you? I want the settling to stick, and not fail.'"

"I replied, 'Give me men with large families and small means, so that when we get there they will be too poor to come back, and we will have to stay.'"

"He laughed and said it was a good idea."

Besides Daniel and Harriet Jones, the group included Isaac Turley (wagon master) and his wife Sarah, Henry and Emma Rogers, Philemon and Cyrena Merrill, Dudley and Ellen Merrill, Thomas and Esther Merrill, George and Syrina Steele, Thomas and Syrina Biggs, Ross and Cynthia Rogers, Joseph and Marta McRae, Austin O. Williams (a widower) and their children.

The group arrived in the Phoenix area on March 5, 1877. Henry C. Rogers wrote in his journal: "Monday, March 5. We passed through Phoenix, camped at Buttes, north of Tempe, about 4 miles from Salt River. Tuesday, March 6. We traveled to the McDowell Crossing of Salt River, crossed the stream and encamped on the south bank, about 3 miles above the present site of Lehi," which was formerly called Utahville or Jonesville.

They immediately began digging what they called the Utah Canal, established a town site, and began working on fortlike structure.

"Give me men with large families and small means, so that when we get there they will be too poor to come back, and we will have to stay."

The "Mesa Company," the second band of early Saints called to settle in the Mesa area, included about 83 members and was led four men: Charles C. Crismon, George W. Sririne, Francis Martin Pomeroy, and Charles Innes Robson.

The Mesa Company arrived and set up camp on February 16, 1878, "a short distance above the McDowell crossing."

This crude, primitive camp would be their home for eight months while the men labored on the canal and the town site they had selected on the mesa.

"Living in tents, covered wagon beds, and under brush sheds for eight months, the womenfolk were buoyed up by the vision of their future homes on the mesa that they would eventually wrest from this harsh land though months of labor and toil," Merrill writes.

Charles C. Crismon

The Second Mesa Company, which arrived in 1879, included the Phelps, Hibbert, Dana and LeSueur familes. In 1880, the Rogers, Standage and Pew families arrived.

Other areas in the state were also being colonized by Mormon settlers; and, in 1878, Apostle Erastus Snow and a party of other Church leaders visited all the Mormon settlements in Arizona south of the Grand Canyon. Elder Snow was accompanied by Lot Smith, president of the newly organized Little Colorado Stake, the first such organization in Arizona. Also traveling with Elder Snow was Jesse N. Smith, who would later be called as the Snowflake Stake president.

In the latter part of September, the Snow party visited Mormon settlements across the state, including settlements along the Little Colorado; and they located a site for the town of Snowflake (named in honor of Apostle Snow and William Flake, owner of the land).

The group continued, traveling to Fort Apache, Turkey Creek, Black River, Gila River, San Carlos Agency, Cottonwood Springs and the Sulphur

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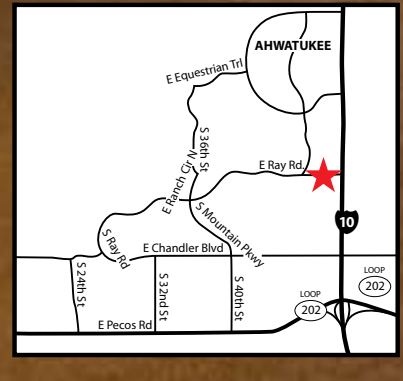

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Springs Valley.

When Elder Snow's party arrived in St. David they found many of the members there were sick with malaria.

"Elder Snow's first address was to an assembly of 36. Some of them were brought in on sick bed, while still others who wanted to come were too sick. Notwithstanding these conditions, he blessed the place and said the worst was over…"

Francis M. Pomeroy

After three days in the San Pedro settlement, the Snow party continued on to Tucson, then on to Florence and into the Salt River area.

That October 1878, when Elder Snow visited the Valley, the Saints were located in four camps along the river, the earliest group at Fort Utah near the Lehi School corner, the Mesa groups' camp farthest east near where Lehi Road meets the South Canal, Charles Crismon's camp near where Gilbert Road meets the river bed, and the camp of Jesse N. Perkins, located between the last two named, at the old McDowell Crossing where the Lehi group had first camped.

On October 15, the group began the journey back home, climbing the Mogollon Rim between Pine Creek and Strawberry. "They held meetings with the small settlements of Saints at Sunset Sawmill and Pleasant Valley, then made their own road cross country to the Little Colorado and the Old Mormon Trail leading back to Utah."

Today, though much has changed in the past 130 years, it takes only a little awareness to realize the impact of those early settlers and to sense the need to honor them as Merrill suggests when he says:

George W. Sirrine

"Indeed, we can say that greater honor is due the Mormon colonists in later times who answered the call of their Church and left established homes to build again in the rough, raw wilderness than is due the original Pioneers of July 24, 1847. The latter homes, not because of wanderlust or the hope of economic betterment or because they were forced from their homes, but because they were asked to and because they thought it was their duty."

Again, Merrill expresses his praise for those who settled the Arizona area, saying:

"This is our own tradition, we relate its hidden theme—'Our heritage is great.'"

Note: Information for this article was taken from: "One Hundred Steps Down Mesa's Past" by W. Keith Merrill, published by The Mesa Historical Society, 1970. "Our Town: The Story of Mesa," published by Mesa Public Schools, 1991. "A Brief History of Mesa, Arizona," from the Mesa Historical Society Museum Web site at: www.mesaaz.org/mesa

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Places & pointers for remembering Arizona's PIONEER PAST

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Celebrating the state's pioneer heritage has become a tradition for many wards and stakes as well as family groups across the Valley and in outlying Arizona towns.

With handcart trek reenactments, pioneer-style cookouts, family reunions, campfire programs and firesides, Arizonans remember the Mormon pioneers who traveled west to the Salt Lake Valley and those who, shortly thereafter, were sent as small groups into surrounding areas to settle in California, Idaho, Colorado, Nevada, and into Canada and many parts of Arizona.

In addition to some of the more common activities, there are some you may not have considered that would make for an excellent Scout or youth activity or a fun, educational and testimony-building day trip or Family Home Evening for your family.

For some activities, you don't even have to leave home. Visit LDS.org/churchhistory and click on the icon that says, "The Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847-1868."From there, you can search Mormon pioneer emigrants by name or browse the list of companies, then read journal entries, rosters and other documents to understand more about our pioneer heritage.

On the Arizona Memory Project Web site at http://azmemory.lib.az.us/, see pictures of artifacts from early pioneer settlers. Or, on this searchable site, you also can listen to oral history recordings of early Arizonans.

You can also check with your local library to find information about Mormon pioneer families who settled in the area where you live. For example, the Mesa Room at the Mesa Public Library includes several volumes describing the Mormon pioneers' contribution to the Mesa area, as well as family histories of 77 of the early pioneer families.

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

President and CEO, Lisa Anderson, shows one of the displays at the Mesa Historical Museum, where, in addition to a collection of pioneer memorabilia, visitors can see replicas of Fort Utah (the area's first pioneer building) and Mesa's first schoolhouse.

To help pioneer history come alive for you and your family, tour one of the museums that feature pioneer collections or visit a historical site. At www.azhistorytraveler.org, type in Mormon pioneer in the keyword search, to find a list of attractions, historic homes and museums across the state.

The Mesa Historical Museum, at 2345 N. Horne, includes a comprehensive exhibit about the early history and settling of Mesa and Lehi. Summer hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. through 1 p.m. To read about Mesa's history, take an online tour or see a preview of the museums exhibits—including a replica of the first school house in Mesa—as well as to learn about special events and volunteer opportunities, visit www.mesahistoricalmuseum.org or call

The Gilbert Historical Museum, touted as "one of the few sites where Gilbert's past is preserved," is located at 10 S. Gilbert Rd. The museum is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To contact the museum, call (480) 926-1577.

Learn more about the Mormon Battalion's Trek across Arizona and get directions to the Mormon Battalion monument near Yuma by going to www.usarmyofthewest.org. Or, for a list of historical markers and trek options, some in Arizona, visit the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Web site at www.dupinternational.org or Sons of the Utah Pioneers site at www.sonsofutahpioneers.org.

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Valley residents participate in WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES IV

Carol Soelberg speaks about the importance of families at the World Congress of Families IV in Warsaw, Poland, in May, where Carol and four others from Mesa participated as representatives of United Families International.

Photo by Laura Knaperek

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

"This truth must be shouted from every rooftop and proclaimed from every informed voice until the entire world, especially women, recognize the value of mothers."

In May, more than 3,300 delegates—from as far away as Chile, Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, Afghanistan, Nepal, Nigeria—assembled in Warsaw, Poland, for World Congress of Families IV.

Among them, five Valley residents represented United Families International, Inc., a co-sponsor of the event, with one of those, UFI president Carol Soelberg, presenting on the topic, "The mother in the home and the new home economics."

Along with Carol and her husband, Glade, Arizona attendees were UFI Chairman of the Board, Fred Ash; director of operations, Julie Walker; and executive director, Laura Knaperek.

Fred, of the Harris 1st Ward, Mesa Central Stake, got involved with UFI several years ago after learning about the group's objective to defend marriage worldwide and make it between one man and one woman.

"They go to the UN and try to affect policy there," he says, "and they've implemented the Stay Alive, abstinence education program for young people in Africa."

"It's a good organization, with good people," Fred says.

Carol, of the Mesa 60th Ward, East Mesa Stake, says the World Congress allowed them to meet individuals from around the world who have similar feelings about the need to uphold the family's vital role in society.

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Music may be key to man's full recovery

Photo courtesy of Michael Drysdale

Michael Drysdale (center) believes a CD of his music will be the key to accomplishing the final steps in recovering from a 1992 accident so he can continue to provide for his family, wife, Nanci; son, Kyran, 9; and daughter, Karli, 5.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Just weeks after graduating from Mesa's Mountain View High School in 1992, Michael Drysdale, then 18 and preparing for a fulltime mission, was involved in an accident that nearly took his life and left him severely injured.

Today, after countless miracles and 15 years of often-grueling effort, Mike says he sees full recovery on the horizon—and he believes his music is what can take him there.

Mike's brush with death came near Beaver, Utah, on June 13, 1992, when a tire blew out on his 1980 Ford Pinto, causing him to swerve into the median and roll several times.

Mike had stopped breathing and his heart stopped, but paramedics revived his vital signs and rushed him to the hospital.

With a broken neck and a closed head injury, Mike lay in a coma for three weeks.

"[Doctors] said I had no brain activity and that I was basically a vegetable. If I ever did wake up, which was almost impossible, I would be paralyzed from the neck down," Mike says.

Doctors urged Mike's family to take him off life support. Yet, Mike says, "My loved ones prayed and fasted that God would either let me experience full recovery or take me on His own. The day after their 24-hour fast, I awoke from my coma."

Mike was transferred to Good Samaritan Rehabilitation Center in Phoenix. Gradually, he began speaking "one word at a time, with a breath between each, because I could not sustain enough air for a complete phrase or sentence."

"I got around in an electric wheelchair, with my shoulders strapped to

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Music May Be Key
Continued from pg. 10

the wheelchair to keep me from falling onto my lap," Mike says. He accelerated, steered and stopped using a long, soda straw-like mechanism that responded as he would "sip or puff."

Today, after years of therapy and determination, Mike has nearly full use of his right arm and leg and partial, but improving, use of his left side.

"I am able to transfer myself from my electric wheelchair into the driver's seat of my van, where I drive with absolutely no modifications, other than a knob on the steering wheel that allows me to steer with only one hand. I operate the gas and brake with my right foot, as anyone else would," he says.

He can bathe and dress himself without assistance. For six and a half years, he held down a fulltime job and supported his wife, Nanci, and their children, Kyran, 9, and Karli, 5.

Mike believes he was well on his way to walking again, until side effects of some recent surgery—including severe abdominal pain and seizures—caused a major setback.

"I lost my job, I lost my 2700-square-foot home, I'm going bankrupt and don't have money for treatment," he says.

Yet, Mike is not disheartened, but is more determined than ever.

"My great desire is to walk again. Reassurance from my wife and my loved ones, and my belief that God could help me accomplish anything that He willed, are what have kept me working toward this goal for the last 15 years," Mike says.

Now, even with the setbacks, he's willing to continue working—and, hoping his music will carry him—toward success.

"I have been thinking—I have two songs Linda Leavitt Hartmann and I have written, one that I did with Marc Denton and several others that I've written—and if I could get an album on the market, perhaps I could raise the money I need to complete my recovery," Mike says.

He envisions a CD called, "Today," based on his song by that title, which proclaims, "Today I won't be a quitter; I'll act like a winner and then follow through."

Mike says, "I think the album could inspire others to strive to improve their lives and come closer to Heavenly Father."

Mike and Linda Hartmann, who is helping facilitate the effort, are looking for help for the Michael Drysdale Hope Project.

"We need recording engineers, musicians, singers, composers—anyone who wants to help facilitate getting this CD out," Linda says. To audition or volunteer your talents and resources, call Linda 480-844-9328 or Mike at 602-369-7807.

Valley Residents Participate
Continued from pg. 9

"The family truly is the rampart for freedom and against tyranny," says Sister Soelberg. "If we want to obtain freedom and liberties, we must maintain strong families."

Carol and Glade, parents of 13, were named 2006 National Parents of the Year. She says the World Congress, was "a wonderful thing to feel the strength of the family voice around the world."

Still, she says ideas that devalue the family are prevalent and can easily infiltrate one's thinking.

"Materialism has become the standard for happiness," Carol says. "Women are seen as having greater value in the workplace than in the home;" "Children are viewed as a burden;" and, "The attitude that education must begin early… is a mindset that devalues what children gain in the home in those young years."

She says, often, "We don't realize that we are picking up ideas of the world; we are sucked in without even realizing it."

Carol told World Congress attendees, "I want you to know that I am absolutely convinced that there is no more important work done anywhere in this world than the work that is done with in the walls of our individual homes."

"We must not let the difficulties of home life obscure the realities of its value. For it is in this setting that the stability of society is manufactured," she continued. "It is in the home that the very strength of each nation is created."

Carol emphasized the the woman's role, saying, "This truth must be shouted from every rooftop and proclaimed from every informed voice until the entire world, especially women, recognize the value of mothers."

Carol believes Latter-day Saints have a responsibility to lend their voices and "do what we can to promote the family in policy and in practice."

"There are so many wonderful insights to gain and so much we can share," she says, adding, "World Congress is going to happen again in three years. It would be wonderful to have a whole army of LDS people attend."

For a transcript of Carol's presentation or to learn more about United Families International and sign up for free e-mail updates and alerts, visit: www.unitedfamilies.org.

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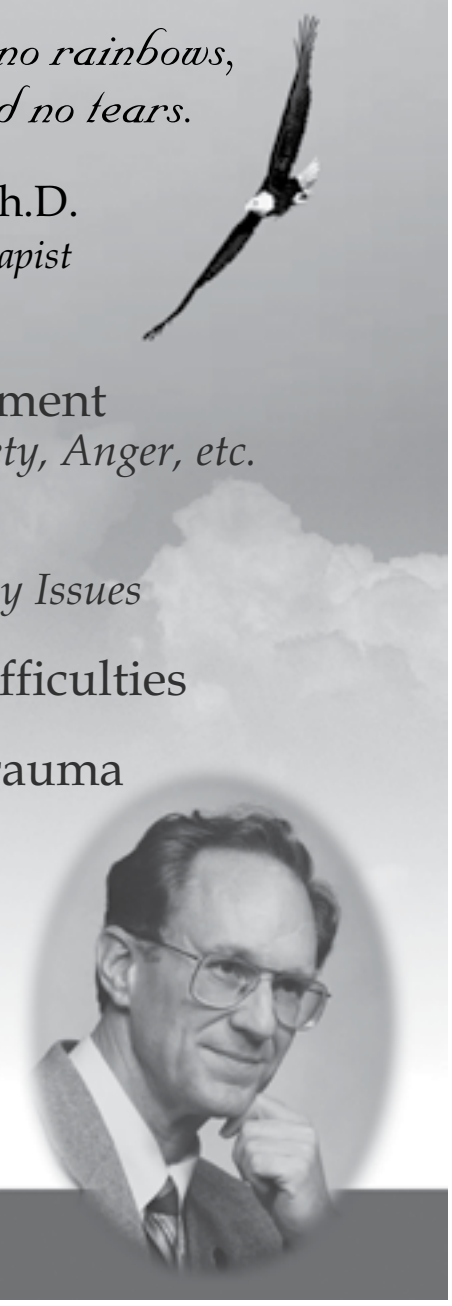

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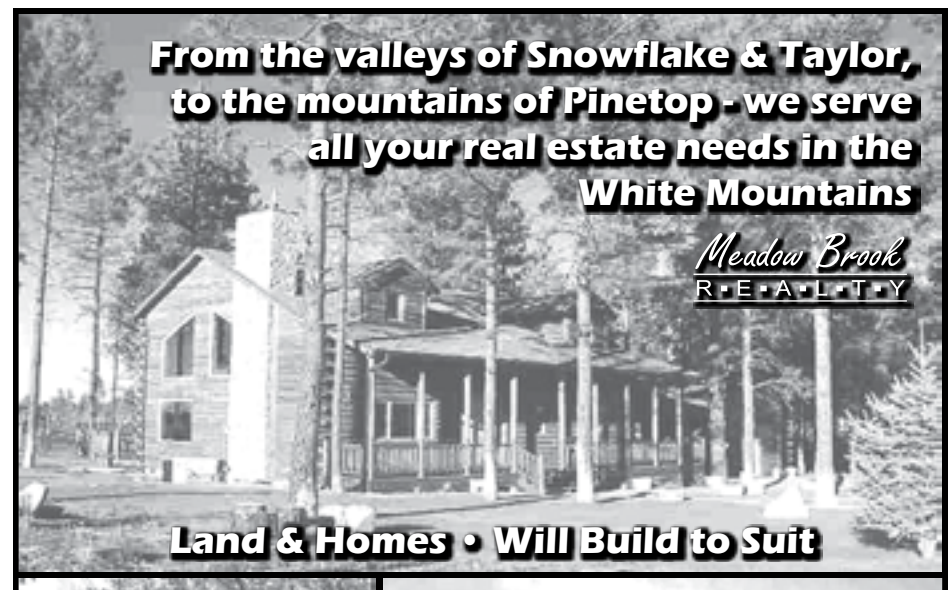
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Army of indexers help digitize records

A huge army of volunteers from across the continent and around the world are forging ahead with the most aggressive effort ever waged to make genealogical records available to millions at any time of the day or night.

Photo by Claire Westlake

At a Young Women's activity for the Vista Peaks Ward in the Alta Mesa Stake, Julie Huish (right) shows Regan Huish how to index genealogical records using the new FamilySearch indexing program.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The records, including the hundreds of thousands that have been housed in the Granite Mountain Records Vault, as well as those in vast genealogical collections worldwide, are being digitized and indexed, so they can be placed online for nearly instant access.

To this point, the only way to access the census records, birth, death, marriage, tax and land records contained on the 2.4 million rolls of microfilm in the vault—literally billions of individual documents—has been to order a copy of the microfilm through the mail. Similarly, records in various other collections have not been readily accessible.

Claire Westlake, of the Salt River Ward, Alta Mesa Stake, says their stake was among the first to begin the indexing project. She says volunteers include retirees and young people as well, some who are members of the Church and some who are not.

"We've seen young people do indexing for the Eagle project or Young Women Value project," Sister Westlake says. "Anyone can do it."

She explains that the work has been broken into manageable segments.

"Once you download a file [of 50 records] you have a week to complete it," Sister Westlake says, adding that the work can be done in 15 or 20-minutue increments and a file typically takes 45 minutes to an hour to complete.

"It's very, very easy to do. It brings the spirit of Elijah into your home and you do get a genealogy addiction," she says. "It's incredible, and it can be such a wonderful blessing."

Larry and Brenda Eldredge, of the Adobe Villa Ward, are the Alta Mesa Stake Family Records Extraction Directors.

Brother Eldredge says their stake has been among the top 100 since the indexing program was launched in their stake in July 2005.

"We're averaging a little more than 100,000 a month," he says.

Continued on pg.13

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Army of Indexers Help Digitize
Continued from pg. 12

Churchwide, more than 4.5 million records were indexed in March of this year and, in April, that number nearly doubled to more than 7 million.

Brother Eldredge explains, to minimize errors, two people index the same file. Then, a third person, known as an arbitrator, reviews the two indexed files, comparing them to see if there are any discrepancies. Whereas both beginners and experienced researchers may volunteer as indexers, arbitrators are experienced researchers who are called and set apart.

Previously, under the old Universal Data Entry (UDE) program, stake extraction directors ordered inventory from Church headquarters and records were mailed on CD-ROM or film. Then, the director spent up to 20 to 40 hours a week dividing packets, distributing them and collecting finished work.

Under the new program, everything is done online, with volunteers working directly to download a small group of images; enter the information in a simple-to-use table that includes automatic lookup lists and quality checks; then submit the finished work on the Internet as soon as they are completed.

Brother Eldredge says, under the old extraction program, "Our stake was completing a little over 100,000 a year, now we're doing that many in a month."

"It's a wonderful, worthwhile project to participate in," he adds.

Junith Roberts, of the Porter Park Ward in the Mesa North Stake, agrees. She serves as a missionary at the Mesa Regional Family History Center where her husband, David L. Roberts, is the assistant director.

Sister Roberts says individuals can work from their own home computers or visit the Family History Center and use one of the 30 computers available there.

She first got involved when her grandson, Samuel Allen Porter, also in the Porter Park Ward, did indexing for his Eagle project.

"It's such a fulfilling work because you're accomplishing something worthwhile," she says. "I just love to do this. Now I don't spend time in front of my computer playing solitaire."

Sister Roberts continues, "This work—like every aspect of the Church—is like a stone cut out of the mountain, rolling forward at such a fast pace."

Brother explains to get started, individuals simply need to go to www.familysearchindexing.org, register, and then read the quick tutorials.

Beginning in August, the Mesa Regional Family History Center will offer indexing classes each Monday from 3:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. For information, visit www.mesarfhc.org or call 480-964-1200.

"Return With Honor" is theme for essay contest

A scholarship essay contest centered around the theatrical film, "Return with Honor," is open to high school juniors, seniors and college freshmen planning to attend a college, university or certified trade school in fall 2007 or 2008.

The contest is based on the question "How would you change yourself and your world in two months, if given a second chance at life?" from the film's storyline about a returning missionary who has a near death experience and is granted a second chance at life that changes him forever.

The grand prize winner will receive a laptop computer and have their essay posted on the film's Web site.

Applicants can go to www.ReturnWithHonorMovie.com, read the film synopsis, watch the trailer and read contest rules. Submitted essays should be under 500 words and must be submitted online. Entries will be accepted until September 12, 2007.

"I want to give back and help kids learn the value of education and writing," said Return with Honor screenwriter Tracy Garner. "I hope the applicants will take advantage of this opportunity to develop writing skills and express their unique creative talents and perspectives."

Return with Honor will be released in theaters September 2007. To watch a trailer of the film, visit www.ReturnWithHonorMovie.com.

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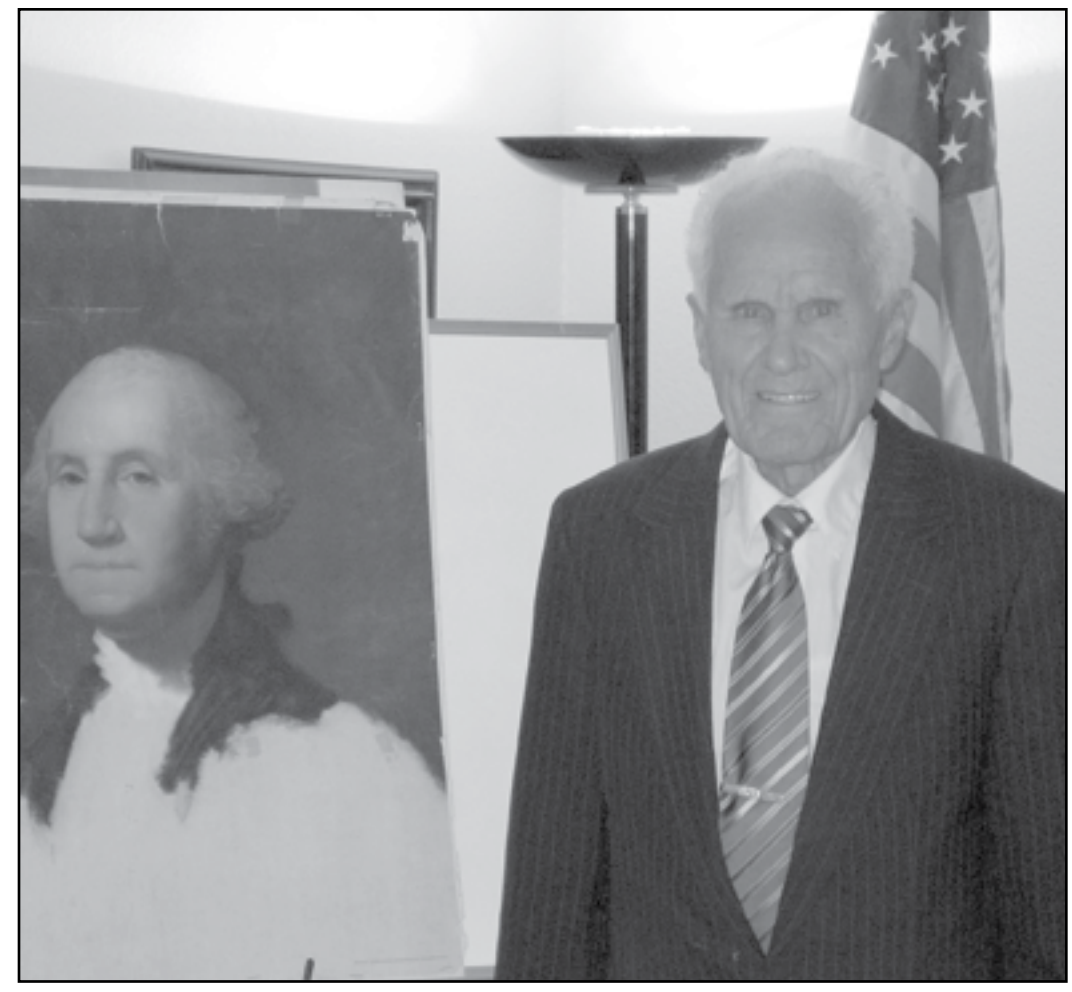

Photo courtesy of Harold Stradling

Louis Stradling taught U.S. Constitution classes for more than 43 years, encouraging his students to take an active role in supporting and defending its principals.

By Jill Adair
The Beehive

Ninety-year-old Louis Stradling has spent a lifetime studying the U.S. Constitution. He understands the document he reveres is in peril, and has been conscientious and frank in warning of the dangers of moving away from principles upon which the Constitution was founded.

"Every major problem today can be traced to a violation of the Constitution,"

Continued on pg. 15

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Mesa Man Warns US Constitution
Continued from pg. 14

says Brother Stradling of the Grandview First Ward, Mesa Central Stake. "We seem to demand political supermen to manage the economy, solve our problems and provide for all our wants. This is a false and dangerous conception. We do not need brilliant schemes hatched in the minds of men. We need to return to those principles of conduct and government set forth in the Bible and the Constitution of the United States."

"The Constitution now hangs by a thread," he says, using a phrase from a statement attributed to Joseph Smith. "Whether it lives or dies hangs in the balance. Only the people can save it."

As a young man, Brother Stradling began a personal study of constitutional government and that interest became a lifelong passion. As he learned, others asked him to share his insights.

In 1964, he outlined a course of 12 three-hour classes and began teaching throughout Arizona—in homes, churches, school rooms and above a cabinet shop in Mesa—anywhere a group could gather.

"I never advertised or hung out a shingle; I only taught it when I was invited," says Brother Stradling, who served on the Mesa City Council for 20 years and helped draft the City's charter.

"I doubt that there is a more comprehensive course in the U.S.," he says, not to boast, but to explain the depth of his lessons.

His classes, he says, are of particular interest to Latter-day Saints who believe the document of supreme law of the United States was created under inspiration and that the Lord "established the Constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom [he] raised up unto this very purpose" (D&C 101:80).

"He is one of the wisest men I know. We wouldn't have nearly the problems we have in city, state and federal government if more people would have listened to him."

After more than 43 years, Brother Stradling taught his last class in April. Some of his 14 children asked him to teach one more course, making it available for his 86 grandchildren and 76 great grandchildren. They taped his classes and will produce a DVD for the family.

"I'm grateful to have done it one last time," he says, now focusing his time writing the Louis and Eleanor Stradling history. His wife, Eleanor, passed away in 2005.

Brother Stradling, who served in the 1960s as bishop of the Mesa Second Ward and on the Mesa Stake high council for 25 years, says, in everything he's taught, he's always gone back to the words of the prophets to ensure he's in harmony with them.

Brother Stradling says Joseph Smith once described himself as "the greatest advocate of the Constitution of the United States there is on the earth" and every prophet since has urged the people to support the Constitution.

President David O. McKay said, "There are some fundamental principles of this republic which, like eternal truths, never get out of date…. Such are the underlying principles of the Constitution."

President John Taylor prophesied, "When the people shall have torn to shreds the Constitution of the United States the Elders of Israel will be found holding it up to the nations of the earth and proclaiming liberty and equal rights to all men."

Brother Stradling says supporting the Constitution starts with making a commitment to do what you can for freedom; pray; follow the prophet; keep the commandments; find balance in responsibilities, including church, home, country and job; be informed and keep informed by relying on reliable publications and not the controlled news media; study the Constitution and scriptures; and then help inform others.

Karen Johnson (R, District 18-Mesa) has known and worked with Brother Stradling for many years. She calls him one of the "greatest patriots" and a "wealth of information." She considers him a mentor, turning to him on many issues during her work in politics.

"He is one of the wisest men I know," she says. "We wouldn't have nearly the problems we have in city, state and federal government if more people would have listened to him."

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New anthem to premier at Gilbert

CONSTITUTION WEEK CELEBRATION

Photo courtesy of the Gilbert Constitution Week Committee

Among the fun at the Gilbert Constitution Week Celebration are representations of historical figures, such as these from last year, when Ingra Norton, as Abigail Adams, and Laura Daley, as Betsy Ross, posed in front of a replica of the Liberty Bell.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

"Fortress Stone," an all new, masterful tribute to the Constitution in the form of an amazingly moving patriotic anthem written by Jason Barney and sung by Jordan Bluth will premier at Gilbert's Constitution Week celebration in September.

Over the past seven years, the Gilbert celebration has evolved into one of the largest such events in Arizona, and perhaps the nation.

"Mesa's celebration is the oldest, the longest running, since 1973. Gilbert's is now one of the largest, with over 10,000 people attending last year," says Barbara Stowell, the event's co-organizer.

Gilbert's annual community celebration actually began as a Gilbert Stake event when Stake President John Lewis asked Barbara, of the Mesquite Ward, and Bill Norton, of the Val Vista Ward, to plan an event.

"President Lewis asked us to do a Constitution play and celebration in 2002," Barbara explains. "The town caught wind of it and, the first year, we worked together with Gilbert Action Interfaith."

After that first year, "Bill and I wanted to keep going," says Sister Stowell, "and every year it's gotten bigger."

It was on September 17, 1787, that the U.S. Constitution was signed by 55 delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia's Independence Hall. In honor of this historic event, by a joint resolution in 1956, Congress requested that the President proclaim the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week."

Continued on pg. 17

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Photo courtesy of the Gilbert Constitution Week Committee

Gina Bellus, as Martha Washington, looks over the shoulder of Ron Bellus, as George Washington, at last year's Gilbert Constitution Week Celebration, an annual event that has grown to be among the largest in the state.

New Anthem to Premier
Continued from pg. 16

Today, the Gilbert celebration, like the Mesa event and others across the nation, are designed to commemorate the Constitution and give individuals a chance to reaffirm their patriotism and commitment to the nation.

As in past years, Gilbert Constitution Week will include Boy Scout merit badge workshops. Last year, nearly 400 Boy Scouts participated to receive Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the Community, and Citizenship in the World merit badges.

There also will be educational programs, including classroom visits from founding era characters and art and essay contests for students with the winners announced the evening of September 22.

In addition to the program, the September 22 event will feature several activities and displays.

"It's like an old-fashioned fair, with kids' art booths; patriotic-oriented, historical displays; food, like apple pie and ice cream; a flag retiring ceremony; fireworks display and a moving program," says Sister Stowell.

She says anyone wanting to retire a flag may bring it that evening.

"This year, we'll also have banners with pictures of soldiers from Arizona who have died in the War on Terror," Barbara says.

The free event begins at 6 p.m. at Mesquite High School, with the program from 8 to 9:30.

"Artist Michael Israel will appear, painting gorgeous, patriotic pictures on stage to patriotic music," Barbara says.

In addition, a highlight of the program will be the introduction of the new song, "Fortress Stone," performed by Jordan Bluth with a full symphony orchestra and choir.

"We had the idea [for a song] a couple of years ago, and we've had several songwriters try, but nothing was just what we wanted," Sister Stowell explains.

"While our nation enjoys a deep history of amazing, rich, and moving patriotic music, there is very little music written specifically and directly about the Constitution, the purpose of its founding, and the relationship we have with it now over two centuries later," says songwriter Jason Barney.

He adds, "What better way to educate and inspire generations old and young to rally behind this fortress of defense that is our Constitution than through the power of music."

Jason, owner of the Gilbert music production and recording studio, Talmage Music, offers sheet music as well as an MP3 download of "Fortress Stone" on his Web site, www.talmage-music.com.

Soloist for both the recording and the live performance of the song is Jordan Bluth, a Gilbert native who recently completed a bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance at Indiana University. To learn more about Jordan and his recently released CD, visit www.jordanbluth.com.

The evening will end with a fireworks display and on Sunday, September 23, a fireside tribute to the founding fathers will be held.

For complete details about the Gilbert Constitution Week celebration or information about purchasing a CD of music including "Fortress Stone," visit www.constitutionweek.com.

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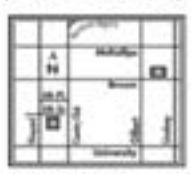

Se Habla Español

Photo courtesy of Kathy Adams

In the past 60 years, since Peter Grant opened the first Pete's Fish and Chips on March 23, 1947, the restaurant has become an Arizona icon and now operates from eight locations.

Pete's Fish & Chips celebrates 60 years of "addicted" customers

Pete's FISH & CHIPS INC.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Devotees from across the state sport bumper stickers to confess: I'm addicted to Pete's Fish and Chips; while other Pete's "groupies" send photographs of themselves wearing their Pete's Fish and Chips tee-shirts in places as far away as the Great Wall of China, Africa and England.

Indeed, in the 60 years since its founding, Pete's has caught on across the Valley, seized entire families and captured four generations of fans.

Pete's Fish and Chips first opened in 1947 shortly after Peter Grant, pulling a house trailer, first arrived in Arizona, with Ruth, his pregnant wife, and with only $900 to his name.

A WWII PT boat captain, he'd contracted malaria in the Philippines and, to recuperate, he needed to be in a warm climate.

For years after, he'd jokingly tell people, "Since I didn't' speak Egyptian, I picked Arizona."

In addition to picking the state, he also picked a business that would become somewhat of an icon across Arizona.

"Dad had seen fish and chips in Australia and Europe," says Kathy Adams, one of Pete's four daughters. "He was impressed with how fast they put them out. He was amazed at how people got fish and chips, walked out and ate them on the go."

This, Kathy explains, was before fast food was really even heard of, before McDonald's and Jack in the Box began and just seven months after Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Pete's opened at 3069 E. Van Buren, on March 23, 1947, in a "teeny, tiny little shack," with no door, only a hatch that lifted up to go inside, and with no running water or bathroom.

"On the first day, a one piece fish and chips with a cup of sauce—which is the same sauce we use today, that original sauce he threw together back in 1947—cost 35 cents," Kathy says. "For another nickel, you could buy a bottle of pop, but you couldn't walk away with the bottle," but had to drink it there, then leave the bottle so Pete could redeem it for the deposit.

"He made $12 profit that first day.

Continued on pg. 19

ASU Professor receives national award for Best Documentary

At an award dinner in May, the Mormon History Association presented its Steve F. Christensen award for Best Documentary Book to co-editors Donald G. Godfrey, PhD, and Kenneth W. Godfrey for *The Diaries of Charles Ora Card: The Utah Years, 1871-1886*.

The Godfreys, though not related, found a mutual interest in making public a rich historical resource, working to preserve the integrity of the original diaries and what was communicated.

They also added extensive footnotes, "to give the reader a better understanding of the challenges of the times and the testimonies of the people, says Donald Godfrey, who is a professor at ASU's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication and a member of the Cortina 1st Ward, Queen Creek Stake.

"Readers of Mormon history will enjoy a virtual who's who in the Church leadership of the time," Don says.

Charles Ora Card was a community and church leader at a pivotal time. He was a member of the militia, a farmer and a millsman. Two of Cache Valley, Utah's most historically significant buildings, the temple and the tabernacle, were constructed under his superintendency.

Card's diaries record the words of every major church authority of the time – including John Taylor, all the Thatchers including Moses Thatcher, Orson Hyde, D.H. Wells, Henry Ballard, Marriner W. Merrill, Charles, W. Nibley, William B. Preston, Franklin D. Richards, Lorenzo Snow, Wilford Woodruff, and Brigham Young.

The Diaries of Charles Ora Card. published by Brigham Young University's Religious Studies Center, is available at Seagull Books or the online BYU Bookstore.

Pete's Fish and Chips Celebrates
Continued from pg. 18

If you think that's when eggs were five cents, seven cents for a loaf of bread, six cents for a gallon of milk, that was a lot of money. He knew from day one he was on to something.'

His philosophy—that "Pete's serves three things: price, quality and service"—seemed to catch on and three more restaurants followed in quick succession that first year.

As his business grew, so did his family and Pete soon had eight restaurants and four daughters, who learned the ropes of running the business.

When Pete was tragically murdered during a home invasion robbery in 1987, his daughters took the helm.

Today, Kathy Adams, of the Elmwood Ward in the Mesa Central Stake, and Pat Foster, run the restaurant chain, with their sisters, Ginny Monroe and Babs Sanders, as silent partners.

"We've home grown our managers, too," says Kathy. "Most of them started with us as teens. Ruth, the manager of our 27th Avenue and Van Buren location, her mother was one of my dad's first managers."

This family feeling among the workers spills over to the customers as well, as they love the family-oriented style of Pete's Fish and Chips.

"They can sit down on picnic tables and eat picnic style, inexpensive and fast…family-style comfort food," Kathy says.

The eight sites, spread across the Valley from Tolleson to Mesa, still serve basically the same menu—fish and French fries, chicken nuggets, burritos, corn dogs, shrimp, hot dogs and burgers, including the third-pound Monster Burger, named after Pete's daughters, whom he called his "little monsters."

With no advertising budget, Kathy believes the secret behind the chain's 60 years of success is her dad's influence and his feeling for what he had founded, which spills over to the customers and the community.

"Dad just loved what he was doing," she says.

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Photo by Cecily Markland

(Left to right) Doctors Ryan Austin and Ryan Sinclair work with student researcher, Melissa Bui, and research specialist, Inhong Song, in a research project at the University of Arizona's Center for Advancement of Microbial Risk Assessment in Tucson.

Researcher studies **water quality** *and potential* **bioterrorism** *scenarios*

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

From testing home drinking water filters to studying potential bioterrorism scenarios, Ryan Gene Sinclair, PhD, is in his element at the University of Arizona's Center for Advancement of Microbial Risk Assessment where he is completing post-doctorate research

"I was raised in the Mojave Desert in California, and I've always liked the juxtaposition between the desert and water," says Dr. Sinclair.

So, not only was the Arizona setting a perfect fit, but the work—a study of about transmittable pathogens, which is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Homeland Security, suited him as well.

Dr. Sinclair graduated from Brigham Young University in April 1977 with two degrees: Bachelor of Science in Zoology and Bachelor of Arts in Socio-Cultural Anthropology. He spent four months studying in India, then returned to California to study at Loma Linda University. In 1999, he graduated with a Masters of Public Health, International Health and Epidemiology.

In November 2006, Ryan earned his doctorate from Tulane University in International Environmental Health & Epidemiology, emphasizing Fresh Water Engineering.

His mother, Nancy Sinclair, of Torrey, California, wasn't surprised when Ryan chose to include, as part of his education, hands on projects, working extensively in public health in India, Ethiopia and Cambodia.

She says, "As a child, he decorated his room with maps of various places in the world. No cars, music or sport stars as many children do. Therefore, it is not surprising that he chose to travel to remote areas of the world for his life's work.'

For his 340-page dissertation study, Dr. Sinclair conducted a solar water sterilization project in the northern Cambodian jungle, which was designed to make a dramatic reduction in the incidence of infant and childhood diarrhea and death from contaminated water.

Continued on pg. 21

Goin' Postal sponsors free American flag replacement program

As part of a patriotic beautification plan, Goin' Postal packing and shipping chain will offer free, 4' x 6', replacement American flags to anyone who brings in a tattered, torn or faded American flag during the month of July.

Each Goin' Postal store owner will have a minimum of 75 American flags on hand to give out as free replacements, with a limit of one per family per physical address (no P.O. boxes) while supplies last.

Founded by Marcus and Dr. M.J. Price, Goin' Postal is a relatively new chain, just 40 months old. The founders encourage their store owners to promote American family values and to participate in their communities.

Goin' Postal is located in Mesa at 5235 E Southern Ave, D-106 (SE corner of Higley and Southern) and in Tucson at 1980 W. River Rd., Ste. 140.

Researcher Studies Water Quality
Continued from pg. 20

When, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Ryan was unable to return to Tulane University in New Orleans for graduation, he spent additional time working on other health projects and solar water sterilization projects in Cambodia.

Ryan has also completed a project to educate about and treat parasites in 5th grade school children in Gimbie, Ethiopia, as well as a tobacco control and smoking cessation program in Cambodia.

His work also has included water quality studies for numerous lakes and reservoirs in the United States, as well as analysis of survey reports for agriculture organizations.

His current research in Tucson involves testing point-of-use water filters, such as Brita filters and others in the experimental phase.

"We have a system to look at contaminants and see the removal of these contaminants," he says.

This includes using a model of a city water distribution network to simulate potential terrorism scenarios. Another member of the Church, Ryan Austin, who grew up in the Scottsdale North Stake and is now a member of the Binghampton Ward in the Tucson Stake, is the engineer who is doing the computer modeling on the project.

Dr. Sinclair explains, "We use a highly concentrated surrogate virus, which is not harmful to humans, but behaves like other viruses."

The virus is introduced in their model, then measured as it flows through the system, using an auto-sampler and real-time testing.

"Then we know how a virus, a pathogen, or whatever, behaves in the system and we know, if someone were to put something in the system, what emergency response would be needed, such as what areas would require boil water warnings," he explains.

Dr. Sinclair, formerly of Tucson Stake's University 2nd Ward, was recently married. He and his wife, Camille, now live in the Silverbell Ward.

Following the yearlong post-doctoral project in Tucson, he hopes to continue doing research with a government agency.

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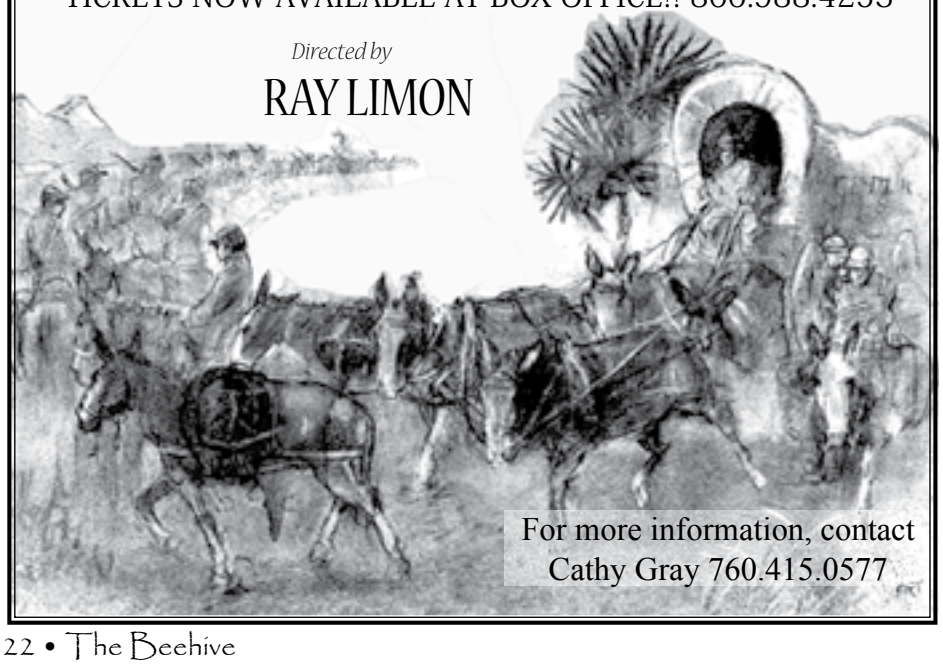

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Photo by Cecily Markland

At Courtyard Towers Senior Living, residents--including (sitting, l to r) Belle Waldron, Sada Lowe, Gloria Dixon and her husband Harold-- enjoy the wide range of health care services and activities in a warm, community-like atmosphere. Standing is Courtyard Towers Assistant Activities Director Renee Smith.

Experts and residents alike *appreciate* full range of services at COURTYARD TOWERS

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

With a full range of activities and health care services—set in a beautiful, residential environment—Courtyard Towers Senior Living provides personalized care that aptly address residents' physical, social, and even emotional and spiritual needs.

Marketing Director, April Leathers, describes the full-service community, saying, "In addition to senior assisted living, we also provide our residents with acute assisted living care and memory support for those who suffer from dementia and Alzheimer's disease."

"We have our own nursing staff that assists with activities of daily living, including bathing, dressing, grooming, taking medication, incontinence care, walking, and eating. We provide room service when residents aren't feeling well, and we can do their personal laundry upon request. We have professional housekeeping services that clean linens and towels on a weekly or daily basis, depending on the resident's preference."

This spectrum of care options, tailored to meet individual needs, is exactly why experts point to Courtyard Towers Senior Living as an excellent choice, and residents wholeheartedly agree.

Tanya Smith, president and co-owner of Certified Assisted Living Locators (Call RN), a company that helps seniors and families make decisions about living arrangements, says, "We love Courtyard Towers. Their exceptional, senior lifestyle is truly unique to the valley."

Tanya likes the individualized attention residents receive at Courtyard Towers.

"There is one floor designated toward Alzheimer's and memory care patients. They have their own activities director; it is beautifully decorated, and very homey," she says.

In addition to individualized care services, a wide range of activities are planned to meet individual interests and abilities as well.

"Nothing here is cookie-cutter," says Ms. Leathers, adding that residents participate in large and small group activities, classes and even community events.

While it is rare in the industry to do so, Courtyard Towers also accommodates religious needs. LDS residents may participate in on-site sacrament services, family home evening, visiting and home teaching, temple trips and family history.

"This is in addition to the services we provide to those residents of many other faiths," says Ms. Leathers. "As you learn more about this industry you'll find that [efforts to accommodate religious needs] are very rare. Although residents may have less physical or mental ability they

Continued on pg. 25

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Photo by Brian James

Using his left arm and a mouthtab to shoot his compound bow, Eric Bennett qualified for the National Paralympics Team and now hopes to go on to compete in the Paralympics Beijing, China in 2008.

ARCHER beats adversity to emerge a world-class CHAMPION

By Rebecca S. McCormick
The Beehive

When Eric Bennett lost his right arm at age 15, as the result of an automobile accident, he thought he had also lost any chance of participating in his favorite hobby—archery.

He says, "When I lost my arm that was the only thing that I lost that really affected me . . . was that I couldn't go out shooting."

Today, 18 years after the accident, Eric, of the Surprise Second Ward, Surprise Stake, not only can shoot a bow again, but he has proven he can do it very well. In March of this year, he qualified for the National Paralympic Team in the Open Compound Class, elite status, which is the highest level.

In October, he will accompany the team to South Korea for the World Championships. He hopes his performance there, as well as qualifications next spring, will enable him to attend the Paralympics in Beijing, China, in September 2008.

"Paralympics [have] the same medals and same venue as the Olympics, but two weeks after the regular Olympics," Eric explains.

Though Eric began shooting archery as a young boy, he did not shoot for nearly 10 years after losing his arm.

When Eric was away at college, his father, Bill Bennett, of the Glen Lakes Ward, Glendale Stake, put Eric in for an elk hunt in hopes his name would be drawn and he would start hunting again with the family.

"He called and told me that we had got drawn. When he said that it was archery, I was heartbroken. So he said, 'Don't worry about it; we're gonna figure out a way,'" Eric says, adding,

Continued on pg. 25

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Archer Beats Adversity
Continued from pg. 24

"So, he helped me build a bow that I shot with my feet."

Bill got the idea from watching a *National Geographic* television segment about a tribe that used a similar foot bow.

"In the episode of building the bow, he was doubtful in the beginning," says Bill.

Yet, Eric overcame doubt. He shot the foot bow for a year before his boss, Rhonda Crabtree, from Corner Archery in Glendale, discovered another way. At a tradeshow, she ran across a booth for "physically challenged bow hunters." Rhonda got contact information and helped Eric connect with others with similar disabilities. They taught him how to use a mouthtab, a small piece of rope that is attached to the bowstring.

Eric says, "I bite down on it, pull the string back and let go."

After using the mouthtab for a while, Eric began competing in 3D-syle archery, which simulates hunting with three-dimensional targets and different distances.

Encouraged by a friend, Eric tried out for the National Paralympic Team, to shoot Olympic-style, with a round target face from a known distance.

Now, Eric says, "I have been shooting for a long time, been competing for probably six or seven years, and now I am to a point where I have a legitimate shot at doing something international."

"I am trying to let everyone know that they can accomplish whatever they want if they just keep at it."

To prepare for upcoming competitions, Eric shoots up to three hours daily and trains physically. He also attends camps and tournaments. His goal is to make his averages more consistent and medal at the Paralympics. He also intends to try out again for the 2012 team.

In addition, Eric has another goal in all of this.

"I am trying to let everyone know that they can accomplish whatever they want if they just keep at it," he says.

Eric's wife, Rachel, says his achievements have blessed many others.

"I think, overall, it gives him a sense of accomplishment which trickles down into our family . . . he knows he can do anything he sets his mind to," she says.

Children who visit Corner Archery admire Eric. They enjoy seeing him with his bow and learning more about him.

"What is more gratifying [then watching Eric win], is that, while he competes, he is also willing to talk to children about his disability and help them shoot," his father says.

Rachel adds, "The most exciting part for me is seeing his dream come true."

Editor's Note: To show support and help earn funds for Eric, Corner Archery, one of his sponsors, will hold two archery competitions in July. To learn more about the competitions, call 623-842-3337.

Experts and Residents Alike
Continued from pg. 22

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Ms. Smith agrees.

"The current residents obviously love where they live," she says. "It is a phenomenal community."

To contact Courtyard Towers, located at 22 North Robson Street in Mesa, call (480) 649-3000. Other senior living communities owned and operated by the Courtyard Towers management group are: Prescott, Arizona, (928) 771-8200; Provo, Utah (801) 377-3730; and Henderson, Nevada (702) 614-8733.

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84-year-old scouter receives well-deserved award 38 years after qualifying

Photo by Elaine Malone

Thanks to help from his daughter, Anita Keller, of Provo, Utah, long-time Scout leader, Lloyd Malone, 84, receives the "well-deserved and long-awaited" Wood Badge award for the training he completed 38 years ago.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

He'd completed the training, passed off the requirements, and done the work—in Wood Badge terms, he'd "worked his tickets"—yet Lloyd Malone didn't receive the award honoring his Boy Scout leadership training success until nearly 40 years after the fact.

Lloyd Malone, of the Meadowgreen Ward, Mesa Kimball Stake, was honored just weeks before he turned 84 with the presentation his Wood Badge beads and certificate of completion.

From his first assignment as assistant Scoutmaster in 1947 in Thatcher's Troop 19, Lloyd went on to devote more than 50 years to Scouting, including four years in Thatcher, a few months in Tucson, and the rest in Mesa.

In 1968, Brother Malone attended Wood Badge course 318 in Shaver Lake, California. Wood Badge is the advanced training aimed at making Scouters better leaders. Participants must complete classroom training as well as a practical, outdoor phase. Then, the complete the training by "working the ticket," or, in other words, by accomplishing goals and putting what they've learned into practice.

The in-depth training not only instills valuable skills, but also creates strong bonds among those who have completed the training.

Unfortunately, for many years, Brother Malone felt membership in that elite group had escaped him. He had completed the training, but—due to some misunderstandings and personnel changes—he never received the award.

"This is a big deal," says Lloyd's daughter, Anita Keller, of Provo, Utah. "It would be like not getting your Purple Heart for years and years."

Anita, who is one of Lloyd and Elaine Malone's nine children, has followed in her father's Scouting footsteps. After completing Wood Badge training herself, Anita invited her mom and dad to the award ceremony.

"My dad would not stand in the circle," Anita says. "I had known all my life that my dad had gone to Wood Badge; but that's when he said 'I never received the beads.'"

She set out on a quest to right the wrong.

"For the past 17 years I'd been

Continued on pg. 27

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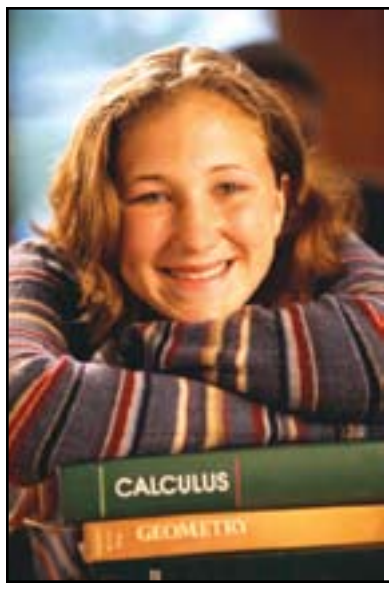

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84-Yr-Old Scouter
Continued from pg. 26

trying, pushing things; then, last summer, he brought me a box of his Scout memorabilia. In it was his Wood Badge book and notes."

With that evidence in hand, she contacted the national and regional Scout organizations. She soon had the approval for the award, but Anita wanted one more thing. She wanted to do the presentation right.

"When I called him to tell him, he put the phone down and I could hear the sobs," she said. "Later he said, 'This is something I've waited for my whole life.'"

At the ceremony to honor him, six of the nine boys from his first Scout troop were present and several friends and ward members who had completed the Wood Badge training participated.

"He truly has served the boys with all his heart. He lived his own life by the Scout laws as he influenced many others," his daughter says, adding, "He was thrilled to death to be recognized."

"He was really excited and pleased and humbled and thrilled—all those things," says Sister Malone.

Since receiving his award, Brother Malone has been put on hospice care. He's also worn his red wool Scout coat regularly, even to church.

"He's worn his red wool coat everywhere. He didn't feel he deserved it until he was a 'real Scouter,'" Anita says.

For their youth conference service project, young men and young women from the Gilbert and Gilbert Val Vista stakes, participated as cheerleaders and supporters at the recent Special Olympics. Shown (left to right) are Harrison Budge, Wendy Johnson, Ria Bauman, Rachael Jensen, Sharee Arrington, Karli Hart and Hillary Hathcock.

Photo by Colleen Smith

Cheers for Special Olympians highlights Gilbert Youth Conference

Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

In matching white T-shirts and waving turquoise and white pompoms, youth from two Gilbert stakes joined forces to support the Special Olympic Arizona Summer Games held at ASU in May. Some teens led Special Olympians in their grand march into the arena, while others filled the stands cheering wildly as each group's name was called.

The Friday night event kicked off a joint youth conference involving Gilbert and Gilbert Val Vista Stakes.

Continued on pg. 30

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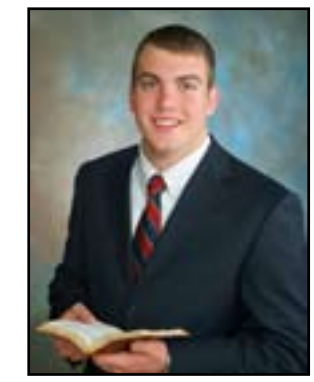

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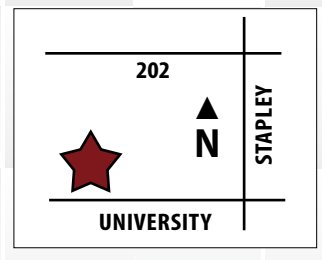

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Cheers for Special Olympians
Continued from pg. 27

Gilbert Stake youth had participated as Special Olympics "cheerleaders" last year.

Initially, leaders thought cheering at the 2006 Opening Ceremonies seemed too simple to be considered a service project. Yet, the activity turned out to be a huge success.

When the 2007 stake youth council met to plan this year's event, they unanimously voted to repeat the activity. The cheering section doubled in size with the addition of Gilbert Val Vista stake youth.

Colleen Smith, Gilbert stake young women's president, says, "Many of the youth from these stakes attend Gilbert High together and were excited to associate with them at a church activity."

Tiffany Lane, Voyager Ward, Gilbert Val Vista Stake, expressed the sentiment of many, saying, "It was cool to interact with the other stake."

Virtuous, Confident, Strong was emblazoned on their T-shirts and served as the conference them as attendees participated in dinner, games, uplifting music, and a Sunday morningside. The service project, which consisted not only of cheering for the special needs athletes, but in dancing and mingling with them after the ceremonies, was clearly the main event.

Stephanie Hatfield and Alexa Stevens, both of the Gilbert 4th Ward, Val Vista Stake, were among those who escorted teams into Sun Angel Stadium. Stephanie, who marched with the Yavapai team, says, "We held their sign and while we waited our turn, we had the chance to really get to know them. They were so friendly and open, they immediately treated us like we were part of the team."

"It was a blessing and a privilege to be in the presence of these truly remarkable children of God," says Alexa. "Interacting with them one on one was literally one of the most fulfilling experiences I have ever had the opportunity to participate in."

Sister Smith says Special Olympics organizers wondered, "How can you get this many young people to come here to do this on a Friday night?" Sister Smith says, "I told them, 'They are taught at church and in their homes the importance of giving and serving…and they are very happy to be here.'"

She continues, "The words on their shirts—virtuous, confident, strong—were definitely the attributes displayed by the youth at this event.

One youth of the Windrift Ward, Gilbert Stake said, "It was so awesome to have the youth get together… and to have no one judge one another. There was no 'normal people' and there was no 'special needs people,' only brothers and sisters of Christ. We all felt the spirit that these exalted spirits radiated, and they touched our lives."

Silver Creek Ward, Gilbert Stake member, Celsea Quist agrees, saying, "The best part of the activity was at the end when we all went down to talk and dance with the participants. While dancing, my partner shared with me, 'My mom is going to come watch me tomorrow.' Then he pointed to the sky and said, 'And that guy up there is watching me, too. He's always there watching over me.' The way he said it was so sweet and pure," recalls Celsea. "I know for a fact that what he said is true. Heavenly Father is always watching over us."

Matt Mooney, Park Village Ward, Val Vista Stake, adds, "The Special Olympics is one of the most amazing experiences I have ever been through. Never have I felt the pure love of Christ so strongly in my life. I believe that it was a great blessing for both the Olympians and volunteers alike. It was truly amazing."

Arizona Broadway Theatre presents "Grease"

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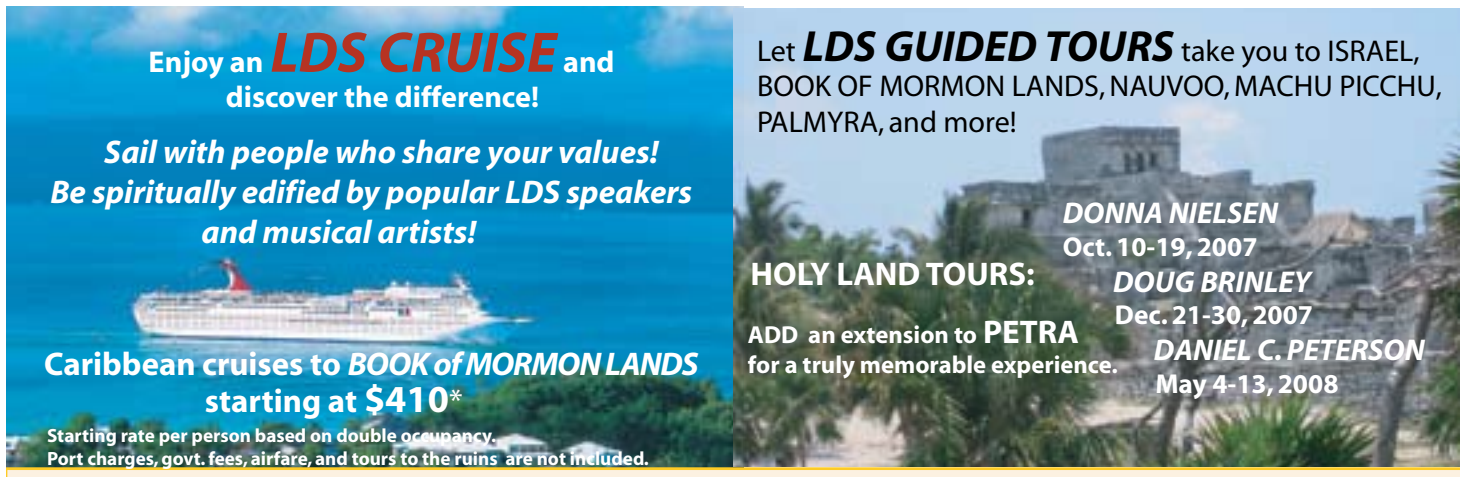
In addition, the production of "Grease" currently showing is "just jaw-dropping," she says.

While many of the "Grease" cast members are from New York, 20 are from Arizona, including one, Katilynn Kleinman, who is LDS.

"'Grease' is a popular show that never goes out of style; and the EFT version, our interpretation of it, is really great," Marilyn says.

Costumes, set design and props are all done on the premises, she explains, adding that the EFT commitment is to "bring back dinner theatre as it was in its heyday, with the highest quality performances and highest quality food."

"Grease" runs until July 29. For driving directions, ticket information, seating details and more, visit www.azbroadwaytheatre.com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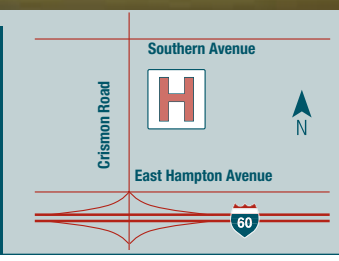

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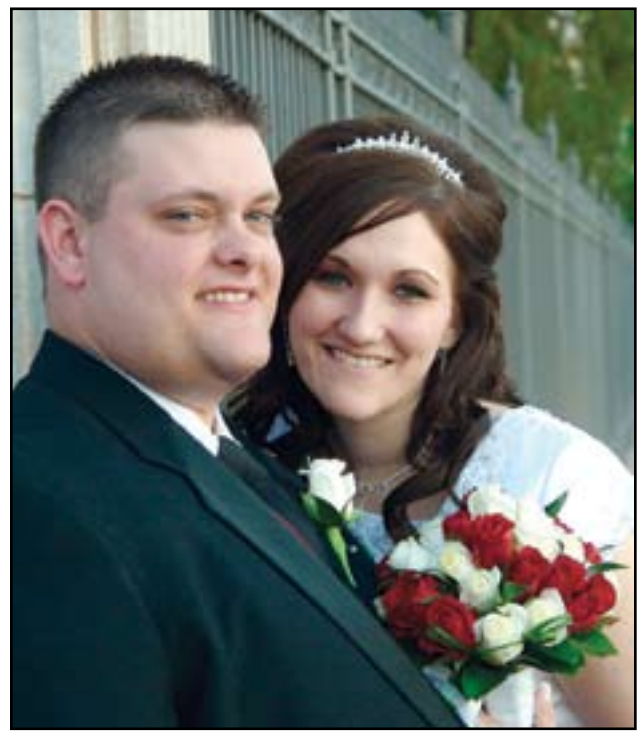
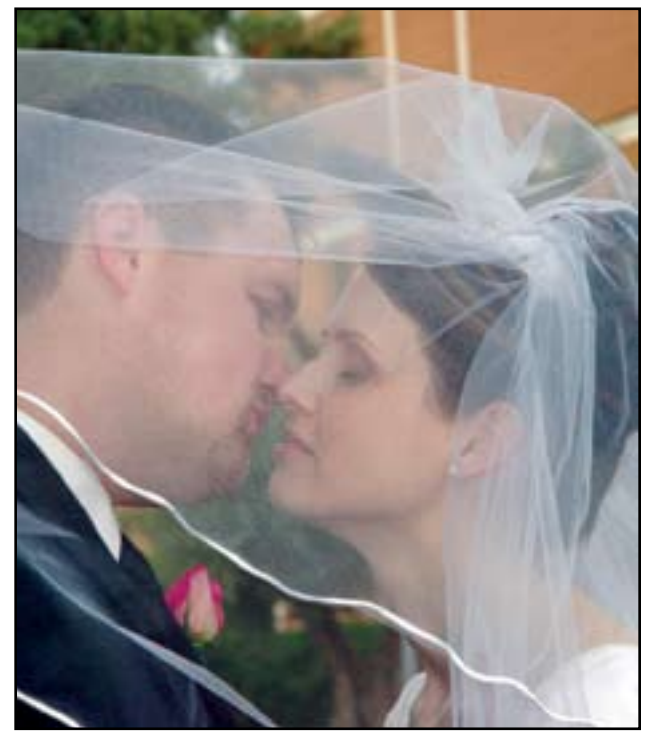
Weddings Celebrations Births

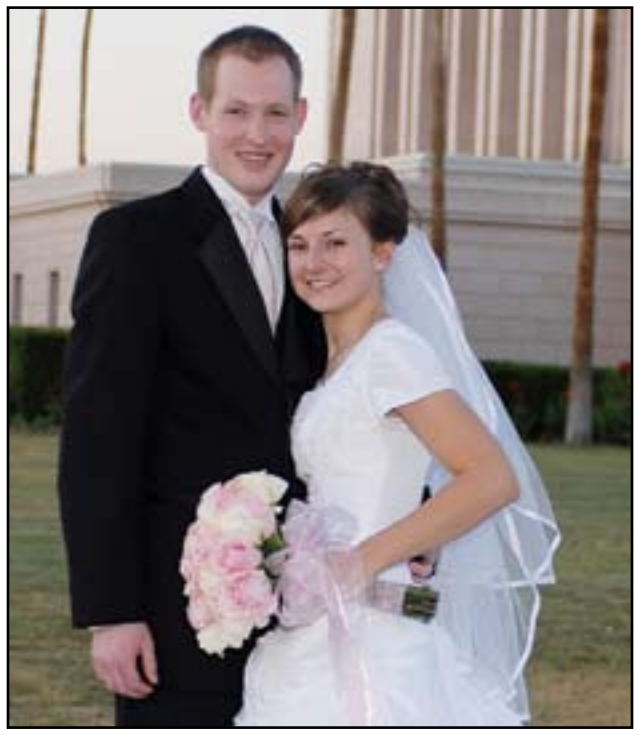
Brittany Johnston & Lance McGee
Married May 18, 2007
Photo by Alan Engberg, Castle Wedding Photography



Sarah Engberg & Craig Kelley
Married May 15, 2007
Photo by Alan Engberg, Castle Wedding Photography



Sara McFarland & Mike Holyoak
Married April 28, 2007
Photo by Alan Engberg, Castle Wedding Photography



Angela Grubmuller & Michael Black
Married May 12, 2007
Photo by Tami Webb Photography

Kara Keeling & Clayton Schmidt
Married May 17, 2007
Photo by Tami Webb Photography

Nicole Olsen & Nathan Faldmo
Married April 25, 2007
Photo by Tami Webb Photography

Alexis Gene Haws
Born January 17, 2007
Banner Baywood Hospital
Jason & Laurissa Haws

Gentry Daniel Randolph
Born April 2, 2007
Banner Estrella
Benjamin & Shantil Randolph

Twins

Carter Shepherd Pettit & Spencer McKnight Pettit
Born May 5, 2007
Mercy Gilbert Medical Center
Rex & Austin Pettit

Branson Kyle Schmeiser
Born May 10, 2007
Banner Desert Medical Center
Arthur & Cheyenne Schmeiser

Allen Jack Walker
Born May 9, 2009
Good Samaritan Hospital
Allen & Brittney Walker

The "Fat Sisters" cook up a tribute to traditional mealtime and family fun

Photo by Darby Schnepf Simon

The "Whiting sisters" from Mesa--(l to r) Joyce Packard, Glenna Tingey, Terry Schnepf, Myrna Borden, and Deb Lewis--published The Fat Sisters Cookbook as a tribute to their mother's tradition of cooking delicious meals and of gathering the family around for fantastic feasts.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Favorite recipes, fun anecdotes and, most of all, family tradition, come together in *The Fat Sisters Cookbook,* recently published by five sisters from Mesa.

The five daughters of Jay and Aleen Whiting—known to many as "the Whiting sisters"—developed the cookbook as a way to pay tribute to their mother and to further her tradition of gathering the family for meals and festive feasts.

The sisters—Joyce Packard, of the Mesa 20th Ward, Maricopa North Stake; Glenna Tingey, of the Mesa 54th Ward (a singles ward where her husband is serving in the bishopric), Maricopa North Stake; Myrna Borden, of the Harmony Park Ward, Kimball Stake; Deb Lewis, of the Evergreen Ward, Central Stake; and Terry Schnepf, of the Emerald Acres Ward, Mesa South Stake—worked together, not only to decide which recipes were "favorites" to be included in the cookbook, but also to reminisce and compile anecdotes.

"The cookbook includes anecdotes after a lot of the recipes that tell where that recipe came from or something fun that happened when it was served," Joyce explains.

"It's a project we thought of doing for years, ever since Mother died in 1982; and we finally got busy and got it done," Joyce says.

She says their mother was "an excellent cook."

The sisters realized, however, the some of the basic skills and traditional recipes they had learned from their mother were not being passed on to the next generation.

"We were raised with delicious hot homemade meals, and most of us continued the practice with our own children. However, as our children married, went to school or on missions, we realized we had been poor teachers

Continued on pg. 35

Two sisters translate their love of Spanish into new DVD series for children

Photo by Maria Nissen

Kids Love Spanish, a new series of fun and effective DVDs that teach introductory Spanish to children was created by sisters, Krisse Brock Kelly (left) and Julie Brock Campbell (right) and features Julie's son, Brock (center) and 50 other children, many who are members of East Valley wards.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

As children growing up in the Southern California town of El Centro, the two sisters, Krisse Brock Kelly and Julie Brock Campbell, learned to love the Spanish language. Now, they have set out to instill that same interest in children everywhere with their award-winning DVD series, Kids Love SpanishTM.

Brock Sisters Productions launched the new series of seven different fun and educational DVDs on May 5 at a Cinco de Mayo party for the 75 children, of all different ages, who participated in producing the series.

The children cast in the DVDs were selected from Julie's son's school class, from members of Julie's Methodist congregation, and from five different LDS wards: the Evergreen and Elmwood wards in the Mesa Central Stake, Octotillo Ward in the Queen Creek Stake, San Tan Heights Ward in the Queen Creek South and the Legacy Park Ward in the Legacy Park Stake in Syracuse, Utah.

"A lot of our friends and neighbors participated, and it was so much fun," Julie says.

The sisters, who are close friends, stay-at-home moms, and, now, business partners, began their project almost two years ago; but, as Julie explains, she and Krisse built the foundation for Kids Love Spanish years ago.

As daughters of an asparagus farmer, they grew up near the Mexican border, where they were exposed to Spanish everyday. Both sisters took Spanish throughout high school and studied abroad in Mexico and Santiago, Chile. Krisse went on to receive a BA in Political Science from UCLA, with an emphasis in Education; and a Master's degree in Bilingual

Continued on pg. 35

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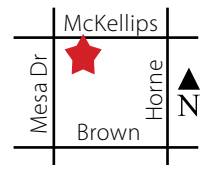

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The "Fat Sisters" Cook Up A Tribute
Continued from pg. 33

and they lacked cooking skills," the sisters write in the cookbook's introduction.

So, the intention was to create a simple, beginner-style cookbook—with detailed instruction written in "layman terms"—as a legacy for their children and grandchildren.

Yet, word quickly spread outside their family circle—in fact, *The Fat Sisters Cookbook* has been featured on the Jan D'Atri talk show on KFYI twice and the sisters were on Channel 3's Good Morning Arizona show and on Channel 12's midday show.

Within approximately six weeks, they had sold out the first printing of 600 copies and had another 300 on order.

Joyce says, while they hope many will enjoy the delicious recipes and will appreciate the easy-to-follow instructions, they would like, most of all, to see people get another message as well.

"We've tried to emphasize throughout the book the importance of family mealtime. We'd like to see people get back to sitting together as a family for meals," says Joyce.

"Today, we eat on the run, just grab stuff, and we've lost something important," she says. "By eating together, we eat more nutritious meals, but we also develop closer bonds and are able to feed our families—emotionally, spiritually and in every way," Joyce says.

"We challenge all to return to the old days of eating together with meals that are practical and delicious," the sisters write.

"And," they conclude, "as we, the Whiting 'Fat Sisters' have always said: 'Never trust a skinny cook!'"

For sample recipes, more about the authors, or to order, visit www.thefatsisterscookbook.com. *The Fat Sisters Cookbook* also is available at Flowers 'n Such (1900 E University Dr # 4 in Mesa) or by calling 480-834-0256.

Two Sisters Translate Their Love Of Spanish
Continued from pg. 34

Education from UCSB. She taught bilingual Kindergarten through fourth grades and was a bilingual assistant principal in Southern California. She now lives in Phoenix with her husband, Chris, and her son, Cameron.

Julie studied Media Arts and Spanish at the University of Arizona and worked in the broadcast and computer industry where she used her Spanish everyday. Julie and her husband, Brad, have three sons: Brock, Morgan, and Hayden, and Julie started teaching them Spanish from the time they were small babies.

Yet, in teaching their own children, the sisters saw a need in the market. "Because we couldn't find a dynamic Spanish series that engaged the entire family, we created our own," Krisse says.

Julie explains that their primary goal with the DVD series was to translate the fun they have had with Spanish into a presentation that was just as enjoyable to watch and learn from.

This format, with children saying the words and pronunciation reinforced by Julie and Krisse, has proven to be an effective teaching method.

"Kids love watching other kids. They love learning Spanish from other children," Julie explains.

Though designed for children ages one through eight, it seems children of all ages, and even adults, are drawn to the numerous examples presented on the DVD as well as the bright colors and engaging music as well.

"Research shows learning a foreign language can help children learn to read faster, have better problem-solving skills and more self-confidence," Julie says, adding, "We've heard that parents enjoy them, too. Families are watching and learning together."

To learn more about the various Kids Love Spanish DVDs, which are available in box sets or individual DVDs, visit the Brock Sisters Productions Web site at www.kidslovespanish.com or call 480.706.5711.

Attorney receives Foundation for Justice Award

The Arizona State Bar Association, at its annual convention, honored Keith Perkins, of the Desert Wells Ward, Queen Creek Stake, with the Foundation for Justice award.

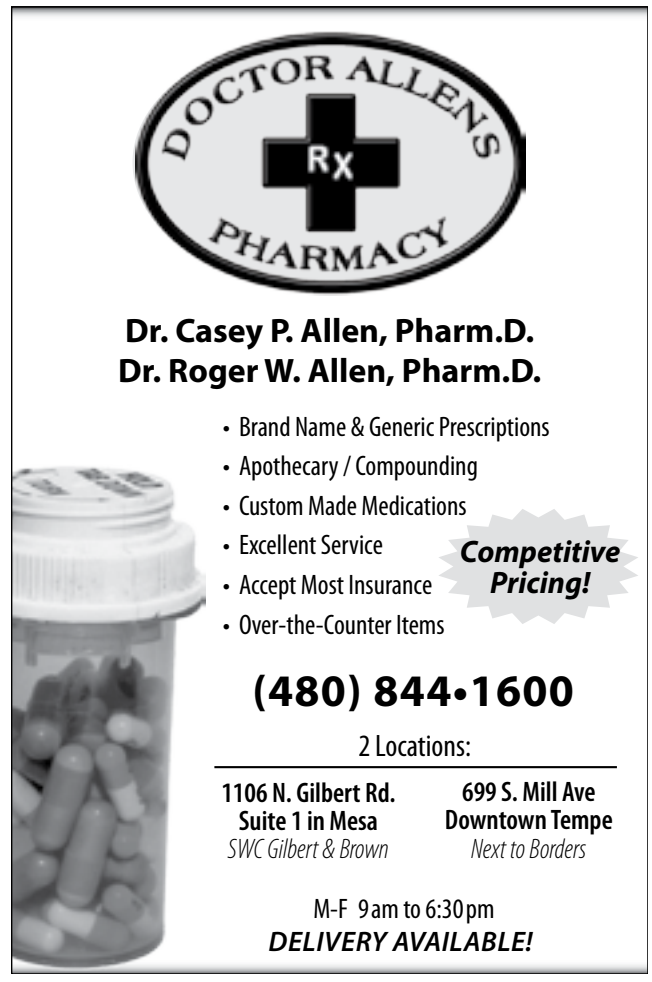
The distinguished award recognizes the attorney who has devoted expertise and time to changing the justice system to promote access and opportunity for those most vulnerable.

In 2001, Perkins started the Never Again Foundation, to provide free representation for women, children and senior citizens who have been victims of physical or sexual abuse in civil actions against their abusers. Victims receive 100 percent of the judgments collected, which to date total over $170 million.

The organization, the first of its kind in the nation, states its vision is to "Never Again deny victims of crime civil justice; Never Again allow abusers to avoid financial accountability; and Never Again fail to send a strong message of prevention and deterrence to society."

Brother Perkins speaks regularly for the Arizona State Bar, Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education, and the Attorney General's Office, Victim's Services.

For more about the Never Again Foundation, visit http://www.neveragainfoundation.org/.



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BYU COACH ENCOURAGES YOUTH TO EMBRACE THE GOSPEL

Photo by Scott Adair

BYU head football coach, Bronco Mendenhall, greets youth after a six-stake fireside at which he encouraged youth to live the gospel and heed promptings of the spirit.

By Jill Adair
The Beehive

Bronco Mendenhall, BYU head football coach, told youth at a fireside in Chandler on May 6 that living the gospel should encompass all facet's of one's life.

"If you compartmentalize your life from spiritual things, it lacks courage and faith," said the 40-year-old coach.

Since his team has incorporated the Spirit into what they're doing, it has made all the difference, Mendenhall told the more than 1,000 young men and young women from six East Valley stakes who gathered at the Chandler Stake Center, to hear him and Arizonan team members, Dustin Staley and Matt Allen.

"I've told the players, 'If you think you're just showing up to a game, you're missing all the significance,'" said Coach Mendenhall, a father of three.

Mendenhall said he better understood the mission of BYU's football program when, after 16 seasons as an assistant coach, including two years as the Cougars' defensive coordinator, he went through the interview process for the head coach position. His final interview was with Elder Henry B. Eyring of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

"The only question I remember being asked in the lengthy interview was, 'Is the church true?'" he said.

As with every aspect of the Church, even BYU football takes the message of the gospel to others, Mendenhall explained.

"This is more important than winning; it's a vehicle to deliver a message of what's right in the world."

The approach is bringing success off and on the

Continued on pg. 37

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Religious involvement linked to marital fidelity

A recent Brigham Young University study shows how couples from Christian, Muslim, Jewish and other religious traditions draw on their beliefs to stay faithful to each other.

"We have known for some time that religiosity is associated with greater marital quality, marital stability and marital fidelity," said David Dollahite, lead researcher on the study and professor of family life at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. The new research, based on interviews with 57 couples of various faiths from California and New England, "provides answers to the questions of how and why this is true."

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has long taught that focusing on religion-centered principles contributes to positive and enduring relationships between marriage partners and between parents and their children.

In fact, the Church's family services department has published a new instructional manual, *Strengthening Marriage: A Resource Guide for Couples*, to help couples with marital concerns. The manual underscores the Church's ongoing concern with building strong family relationships among its own members and in communities throughout the world.

"Perhaps our greatest concern is with families," said Church President Gordon B. Hinckley. "The family is falling apart all over the world. The old ties that bound together father and mother and children are breaking everywhere."

Additional concern for the family is expressed by Dallin H. Oaks, a member of the Church's Quorum of Twelve Apostles. "The concept that society has a strong interest in preserving marriages for the common good as well as the good of the couple and their children," Elder Oaks explains, "has been replaced for many by the idea that marriage is only a private relationship between consenting adults, terminable at the will of either. Some even refer to a first marriage as a 'starter marriage,' like a small home one uses for a while before moving on."

In a 1995 statement on the sanctity and purpose of families, "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," Church leaders taught that "husband and wife have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children." Further, the proclamation declared, "successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities."

BYU Coach Encourages Youth
Continued from pg. 36

field.

Despite a rocky start in 2005, Coach Mendenhall took a program that had not had a winning season for four years and compiled a 6-5 regular-season record, finished second-place in the Mountain West Conference standings and earned a trip to a bowl game.

The following year, the Cougars posted a 10-2 record, winning the Mountain West Conference Championship with a perfect 8-0 record. As a result, BYU returned to the Pioneer PureVision Las Vegas Bowl, this time as conference champions.

Following the 2006 season, Coach Mendenhall was named the American Football Coaches Association Region IV Coach of the Year.

All that came after being booed when he opted to punt on a fourth down, and ultimately lost to Boston College 20-3, at his first home game as head coach.

After two more early loses, he re-evaluated where the team was.

"I realized we weren't giving back enough," he said.

He said, having learned his own lesson about obeying the promptings of the Spirit, he instructed the team and staff that they would be giving firesides throughout the year. Last year they spoke to more than 10,000 youth.

Mendenhall encouraged Arizona youth to always have a "prayer in your heart" and to love the scriptures. "Why aren't your scriptures in your backpack or on your desk at work?" he asked. "Why separate yourself from this?"

He recalled, as a young man, spending three days in isolation, reading the Book of Mormon and finding his own testimony.

"The time comes when you have to make a choice," he said. "The sooner, the better; you'll know if you ask."

He spoke of the importance of being obedient to promptings of the Spirit, saying, "The adversary tells you not to [be obedient] or that it's no big deal but through obedience and action you'll receive your blessings. It's worth it."

Then testify of what you believe in to others, he said.

Tyler Brown, 17, of the Chandler East Stake, said he enjoyed the fireside and liked hearing that BYU football is not just about football, but about showing the light to others.

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K[12] offers free public school "virtual education" for kindergarten through high school students

Rachel Faas Trim
The Beehive

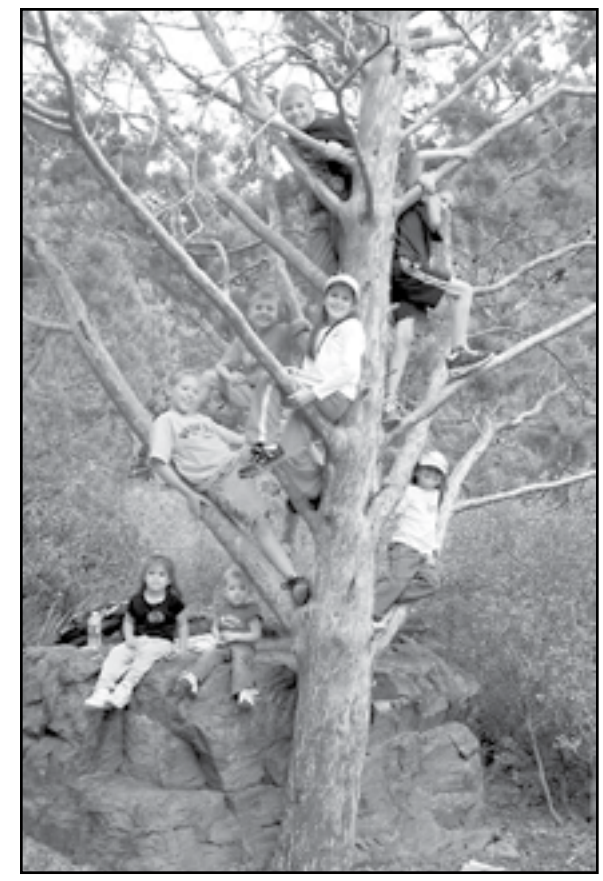

Photo courtesy of Mary Gifford, AZVA Head of School

Although students at Arizona Virtual Academy (AZVA) complete their schoolwork online, they still have many of the "perks" of traditional schooling, including the option of participating in field trips such the one to Tonto Natural Bridge State Park, pictured here.

Thanks to an innovative, virtual school concept, "learning without limits" is an educational term students and parents easily understand at the Arizona Virtual Academy (AZVA).

AZVA, now in its fourth year of operation, is Arizona's only school certified by K[12], a leader in providing standards-based curriculum for virtual schools. K[12], which was founded seven years ago, is changing the lives of students and families across the country who desire an alternative to traditional education models.

This virtual education program moves beyond other on-line computer learning programs by offering face-to-face parent-teacher conferences, and teacher-led group field trips and social outings.

Mary Gifford, who serves as AZVA's Head of School, says the programs at AZVA are a perfect fit for many families.

"Families choose the K[12] program at AZVA for a variety of reasons; flexibility, curriculum preferences, school discipline issues, and acceleration," she says. "Some families have children with unusual schedules, like competitive athletes. Other students with chronic illnesses cannot be around children in the traditional day-to-day setting."

She says AZVA also helps students who have what she calls "pacing issues."

"Some students need more time to complete tasks and other students need to accelerate through material," Mary says.

When families enroll in AZVA, they are assigned to work with an experienced teacher. Then, they are supplied with the materials that will facilitate success in the program. This includes a computer and printer on loan, an Internet reimbursement, and high quality textbook and resource materials. Placement tests in writing, reading and math ensure an appropriate starting place within the curriculum. Students advance at their own pace and are required to show 80 percent mastery of a concept before moving on to the next level.

Student success is the ultimate goal for all K[12] programs nationwide. As publicly funded schools, they are equipped to meet the special needs of students. AZVA accommodates many different learning styles and has a full-service special education program and a Title I program. Looking ahead to each student's future, the school counselor assists students in searching for scholarships and registering for college.

"We fill a need in education," says Jeff Kwitowsky of the Virginia-based K[12] corporate offices. Jeff explains, "Founder and current Chairman of the Board, Ron Packard, saw that need and moved forward to fill the gap. Ron's goal was to build a world-class curriculum in every grade and every subject that any child in the U.S.—and indeed, the world—could access without barriers."

He says, "K[12] uses the power of technology to deliver a high quality learning program and enables students to master important concepts in an exciting way while developing a love for learning."

For more information on K[12] schools, please visit k12.com/az or call 1-866-339-4949.

To visit the Arizona Virtual Academy's Web site, log onto www.azva.org.

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with
Jill B. Adair

Preparing for a mission or returning home from one? Or, do you have a friend or family member currently serving? Check out the many missionary-related Web sites available online.

The Church's site, www.lds.org, offers a great deal of information, including full-time missionary opportunities for seniors, part-time opportunities for those living at home, a "to do" list for preparing to serve, information for estimating mission costs for seniors, and more.

Missionary Moms, at www.ldsmissionarymoms.com, provides a type of cyber-space support group, giving users a place to sign-up for e-mail lists for moms of Elders, moms of sisters, missionary dads, moms of returned missionaries, moms of missionaries who couldn't complete their missions and moms of missionaries who died during their missions.

DearElder.com features free same-day letter delivery to the Provo MTC, free pouch mail and mail to any other mission for the price of a first-class stamp. Care packages can be ordered from this site or at http://called2serve.com.

MissionaryWorld.com or MissionSite.net allows a user to create free Web sites for missionaries, giving users a great place to make an online photo album, post letters and stories and keep relatives up-to-date on missionary experiences.

At a rather unique site: http://translation2.paralink.com/default.asp?lang=en, write your letter in one language and translate it to another. Most major languages are available.

Another fun site is http://www.ldstoons.com, where you can find missionary comics.

For missionary shopping needs, try www.missionarymall.org.

If you've already served a mission, register at one of the mission alumni Web sites, so you'll be able to keep in touch with past companions and others will be able to find you.

Search for a missionary or mission by name or a list of missionaries who served in a particular mission. You'll find a link to the mission's Web site, if one is available. There you'll find a list of alumni or those currently serving, past and present presidents, reunion news, photos, a message board, mission history and links to other Web sites pertaining to that area.

LDSMissions.com states it has more than 19,000 missionaries registered. Contact information is hidden unless you register and become a user, but you can send an e-mail without signing in.

LDS Mission Network, www.mission.net, claims to be the most comprehensive index of LDS missionary alumni Web sites. It currently lists over 188,379 alumni from 358 mission Web sites, listing every mission ever organized since 1837, although many do not have an operating Web site. This site may be accessed in Spanish and Portuguese.

This site also gives specifics about the various missions. In addition, it explains what a mission is and tells about the MTC, gives a list of clothing and other items needed for mission service and provides tips for locating Church members with whom you have lost contact.

Editor's Note: This column is designed to provide Beehive readers with timesaving direction and ideas for safely and easily surfing the Internet.

To suggest a topic for a future column or to share an interesting Web site with others, e-mail: 5adair@cox.net.

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In The Mommy Zone...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

"The Conductor"

Last week, we attended our oldest son's junior high school music concert. His jazz band had been meticulously practicing for weeks and we were anticipating an evening full of musical fun and entertainment.

The conductor came to the stage and introduced the band's first melodious piece. She then raised her baton and counted off a four-beat rhythm, while simultaneously snapping her fingers in sync. After taking her lead, the band leaped into an intense, upbeat tune.

To my utter astonishment, the conductor directed about five more measures of the song and boldly walked off the stage. The jazz band kept playing as if nothing had happened, and I sat there with my eyes bulging and my mouth dropping.

Their exotic pulse and syncopated rhythms kept my toes tapping and my hands clapping, but I couldn't help wondering how they played so masterfully without a conductor? How did they learn to stay together with such technique at such a young age?

My mind reeled with questioning awe as my son, sporting his shiny, metallic alto saxophone, eagerly stood up and proceeded to play a flawless, funky-sounding jazz solo. I sat there in wonderment at his apparent easiness on stage and his mastery of the instrument until the crowd erupted with ear-splitting cheers upon his finale.

The band continued to play as more soloists stood, exhibiting their own musicality, all without the aid of the conductor. I finally spied the director emerging from offstage. She jumped right into the music, directing flawlessly, as if she had never left.

In less than three measures, the song was over and the auditorium was exploding with applause. This same phenomenon repeated itself as I sat dumbfounded through two more songs.

After the concert, I quizzed my son on his amazing abilities and that of his fellow band members.

"How did you all stay together? Why did your conductor leave? Who keeps the rhythm without the director?" I bombarded him relentlessly. He just looked at me with a wide grin and simply stated, "She trusts us."

My psyche instantly began to whirl with thoughts about this trusting band mentor. I saw many similarities unfold in my mind between her job and mine as a mother.

She taught her band students not only to play their instruments well, but to play them in tempo and in sync. She drilled each musician daily, helping them to practice their skills, encouraging every correct note and precise rhythm. She instilled in them the confidence to succeed on their own, to make beautiful music individually first, then as a group.

She inspired the band to dig deep for discipline, determination and self reliance. She taught them to feel the beat of the music, to trust their own instincts and musical talent. Then she let them perform their skills solo, a true test of mastership and trust.

As mothers, we also try our best at the "conductor's art." We teach our children to perfect their instruments of decency and ethics, encouraging them to stay in rhythm with high standards and in sync with moral values. We teach them to feel their own beat inside, urging them to strive for harmonious and rich performances.

We help them to practice their musical talents as individuals, fine tuning their skills at fair play, kindness and generosity. We instill in them desires to be successful at making life's music, playing as family ensembles, and making sure their instruments of honesty and integrity are always in tune and in good repair.

Then we wait in the wings of their stage, as my son's conductor did, while they perform life's solos, hoping for musical greatness and grandeur. We stay on the sidelines, just in case they skip a beat in the rhythm of living, helping them snap out the tempo if they loose their place in this musical score we call life.

We are the directors they turn to if their young lives seem off tune and the initial ones to stand and cheer for an encore. We get to see first-hand their transformation and musical mastership if we do our part well.

The hallowed secret of the conductor is out, if she can trust in her band, we can surely trust in ours!

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Internet video PLAYFULLY Depicts postman caught stealing missionary mail

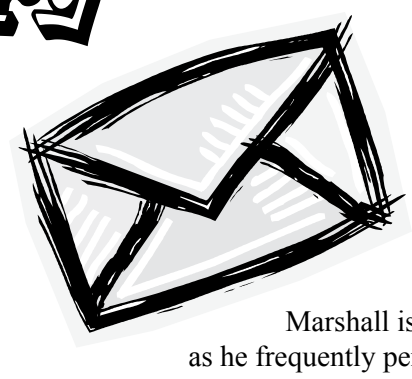

Photo credit Ted Sowards

The idea of missionaries waiting for mail spurned the humorous "what if" Internet video, titled "Some Postman," which was created and directed by recently returned missionary, Ted Sowards, and stars, among others, (l to r) Rob Johnson and Marshall Glass of the Maricopa Stake and Holly Richardson of the Lehi Stake.

By Liz Anne Bayh
The Beehive

Postmen don't steal missionaries' mail—regardless of what an Internet video might suggest. Even if the video has been viewed more than 10,000 times, it still doesn't make it true…but it is fun to imagine.

The video, "Some Postman" at www.SomePostman.com, was viewed more than 5,500 times in the first three days after its release.

Creator and director, Ted Sowards, of the Lehi Stake, says, "I think the LDS people are craving fun videos, and today's technology allows the average person to create and distribute professional quality videos. Especially with sites like MormonWebTV.com."

The first time Ted heard the song, "Some Postman"—about a mail carrier stealing a missionary's mail—he could relate to it.

As a recently returned missionary, he says, "When you're on a mission and no letters come for weeks, your mind starts imagining reasons why—such as the postman is stealing your letters."

Ted says one element that makes the video so delightful is the mailman antagonist, played by Marshall Glass of the Maricopa Stake.

"[Marshall] brought so much more to the character than I had imagined. No matter what I asked him to do, he did it. Never once did he complain that he felt silly. It was great," Ted says.

Marshall is not new to acting, as he frequently performs in plays at the Desert Rose Garden Theater in Mesa.

Wanting to match Marshall's talents, Ted wanted an equally talented actress to play the girlfriend. He says people who see Holly King, of the Lehi Stake, in that role will agree, "It was well worth the search."

In making the video, Ted first hashed out his ideas to Rex, his partner and brother. Rex started the storyboard, but had to turn the project over to friend, Lisa Reeder, also of the Lehi Stake, when he left on his mission. For the storyboard, drawings must be made for each second of the song.

"A storyboard allows everyone helping on the project to be on the same page, working toward the same end product," Ted says.

"I knew how I wanted each shot to look," he continues.

He accomplished creative shots using simple techniques, such as hanging the camera by a rope over a streetlight, putting it inside the mailbox, and filming from a moving truck or dolly. Everything had to be timed perfectly.

Though the process was somewhat challenging, "I still want to make more," Ted says.

"Some Postman," can be watched at www.SomePostman.com.

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Nine-year-old receives Golden Rule Award

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Only nine years old and Hadley Nielson, of the Val Vista Second Ward, Chandler East Stake, is already well practiced in living the Golden Rule. And, now she has the award to prove it.

In April, the Arizona InterFaith Movement named Hadley the youth recipient of The Golden Rule Award, a prestigious annual award presented to individuals, businesses or organizations that have lived the principles of the Golden Rule.

According to the organization's Web site, recipients are individuals whose "values, practices and life in the community reflect their understanding, respect and support for the dignity of all people, and a dedicated resolve to bring about justice, equality and sustainability life for all people."

Hadley's exemplary actions were born out of her own struggles as she was born with Marfan syndrome a rare, genetic, connective tissue disorder, which affects one in 5,000 people in the United States.

The condition involves the tissue throughout the body, which, for Hadley, means her heart and stature are affected—she's 5'6", unusually tall for her age.

Marfan syndrome has also impacted her vision. She has had surgery on the ligaments of her eyes, and is nearly

Continued on pg. 43

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Nielson

Nine-year-old Hadley Nielson was honored recently with The Golden Rule award presented by the Arizona InterFaith Movement for her efforts to help children in need who require eye care or surgery.

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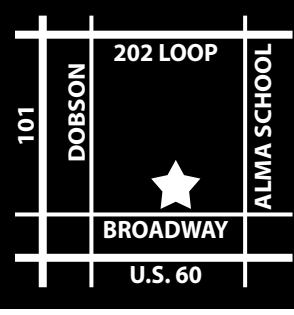

Nine-Year-Old Receives Award
Continued from pg. 42

blind without the aid of both contact lenses and glasses.

Yet, while Hadley may have trouble seeing, what she does have is another kind of keen vision—that of seeing the needs of others and acting upon that.

Her vision seemed to expand when she attended the Golden Rule banquet with her parents last year. Arizona InterFaith Movement executive director, the Rev. Paul Eppinger says Hadley, then eight years old, watched attentively that night.

"On the way home, she said to her mom, 'I've got it! I've got it!'" Eppinger explains. When her parents asked what she was talking about, she responded, 'I've got it! We're all children of Heavenly Father.'"

That was the impetus that set in motion, "Hadley's Vision," her dream of raising money to help other children who suffer from an eye ailment.

With the help of her parents, Jennifer and Talan Nielson, Hadley planned and help carry out a benefit carnival held in the backyard of her grandparents, Dennis and Ann Barney of the Lindsay Ward in the Gilbert Val Vista Stake.

The carnival raised more than $8,000, money Hadley had already earmarked to be donated to help provide vision care for low-income families in the states and in Mexico. With that money, Hadley and her family helped children in Mexico who have the same condition Hadley does. They've since raised an additional $1,500 to help children with eyesight problems.

Hadley was honored to receive the award, her mother says, adding that it serves another purpose as well.

"I think the main purpose of the award is to encourage other kids, to help other kids get out of their box, and let them know they can make a difference no matter how old or what their situation," Sister Nielson says.

The late Mesa civic leader, Darl Andersen, tirelessly worked for government endorsement of the Golden Rule. It was after his death that lawmakers approved the program to recognize good deeds.

Also honored at this year's banquet was businessman and philanthropist, Ira A. Fulton who received the Darl Andersen Award, the program's highest honor.

Hadley plans to continue to find ways to help others. After all she says, "I don't feel like I'm different from all the other kids. Everyone has a problem in life. People aren't always perfect, nobody is."

An account under Jennifer Nielson/Hadley's Vision has been set up at the Bank of America for those wishing to contribute. The account number is #004378276148.

New temple to be built in Manaus, Brazil

A new temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be built in Manaus, Brazil, according to a recent announcement of the First Presidency of the Church.

"It is not possible to express the joy that I feel as a result of the announcement," said Geraldo Diogo Lima, a local Church leader in Manaus. "I often find myself in tears as I ponder the blessing of having a temple in our city."

For the approximately 60,000 members of the Church is Manaus — an area located in the Amazon River basin in the northern part of Brazil — the new temple means they will no longer have to travel for several days to reach the closest existing temple in Caracas, Venezuela.

"We are confident," officials of the Church Temple Department explained in a letter distributed to Church leaders worldwide, "that this temple will be a blessing to the many faithful members in this and surrounding areas that have had to travel long distances to enjoy the blessings of the temple."

With the announcement, the total number of temples operating, under construction or announced climbs to 136 worldwide. In Brazil, temples are currently in Campinas, Recife, São Paulo and Porto Alegre.

Latter-day Saint temples are considered houses of God, each a place of holiness and peace separate from the preoccupations of the world. Temples provide a place where Church members make formal promises and commitments to God. They are also where the highest sacraments of the faith occur — the marriage of couples and the sealing of families for eternity.

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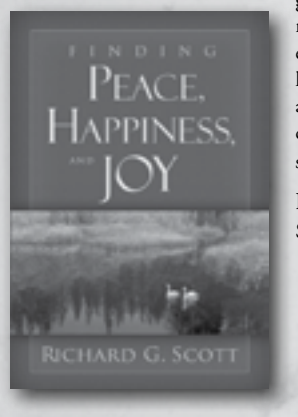

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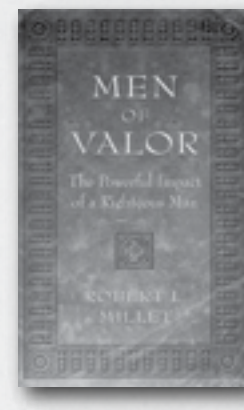

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Donald S. Smurthwaite

In looking back on his childhood, Neal Rogers recognizes that the strongest influence in his life has been that of his quiet, humble, unassuming father. Through his father's example, Neal learned that "Greatness is found in small, simple, sturdy good deeds repeated over and over again." This poignant story, with its message of appreciation for unheralded deeds, is a perfect gift for Dad, and a great read for book groups.

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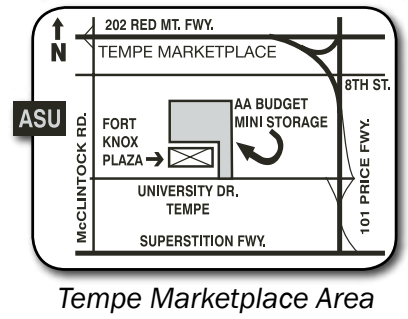

Tempe Marketplace Area

Photo courtesy of Clarence McBride

Clarence and Joan McBride, of the Thatcher Stake, say they realized a lifelong dream when they were called serve a mission to the Winter Quarters Temple.

Couples' mission FULFILLS *life-long desire*

By Tina Scott
The Beehive

Clarence and Joan McBride, of the Thatcher 7th Ward, in the Thatcher Arizona Stake, recently realized one of their lifelong dreams, when they served as senior missionaries in the visitors' centers of the Omaha Nebraska Mission.

For as long as they can remember, Brother and Sister McBride planned to serve a mission together. Five years before he retired, the McBrides started thinking about where they'd like to go.

Clarence was serving on the stake high council at the time, and he'd bring home flyers telling of the different missionary needs.

"I was interested in teaching at a Church school in a little island in the Gilbert Islands," Clarence recalls.

However, Joan didn't want to serve in a third-world country or learn a new language.

After agreeing on where they'd like to go, they began filling out the paperwork, but soon thereafter, Clarence was called to serve as the Stake Patriarch. At that same time, they also were serving as temple workers in Mesa two days a week.

"I figured that was my mission, since he was the Patriarch; well, that would be it," Joan explains.

Five years later, the Stake President asked the McBrides if they were still interested in serving a mission. They told him they were and they soon received a call to serve in the visitors' centers in Omaha, Nebraska.

"There are two visitors' centers that the Church has in the Omaha Nebraska Mission," says Clarence.

They served in the Mormon Trail Visitors' Center in Nebraska and at the Kanesville Tabernacle in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

"They're only about 15 miles apart," says Joan.

Both places are of particular historic interest to the church. The Mormon Trail Visitors' Center is near the Winter Quarters cemetery where many of the early saints died. It's also the site where the Mormon Battalion was formed.

"We had an opportunity to tell the story about the Mormon Battalion to a sister who was a descendant of one of the people in the Battalion," says Brother McBride.

As part of the tour, he related the story of two brothers upon their return from the Battalion; one followed the prophet, and the other brother, William, stayed in Council Bluffs. Consequently William's family became inactive

Continued on pg. 45

Pair of BYU studies shows the baby learning curve

Every parent would love to get inside their baby's mind to see what they are thinking, which is just what one Brigham Young University professor does through a series of video tests that help him plot the baby learning curve.

In a new study, BYU psychology professor Ross Flom demonstrates that a 4-month-old baby can comprehend what their parent is feeling through simultaneous sights and sounds.

For example, a 4-month old baby would understand a parent who showed an emotional expression in their face and in their voice. That would not happen until five months through voice alone and not until seven months through the face alone.

"Simultaneous sights and sounds capture infants' attention and drive early learning," said Flom, who reported his findings in the highly-ranked journal *Developmental Psychology*.

To determine when, what and how babies learn, Flom and his team of students invited parents to bring their babies to see a series of short video clips. A pair of observers recorded how long each baby looked at the screen as an actor presented an emotion several times in a row. Naturally the kids paid less attention on the second and third viewing. Then suddenly the actor presented a different emotion. The children who noticed and understood the shift regained interest and looked longer at the screen.

"Nearly all organisms, including humans of all ages, reveal quite a bit through what they choose to look at and how much time they spend attending to that event," Flom said. "The only trick is to come up with the right presentation to test an idea about how and what babies learn."

In a second study – published recently in the journal *Infant Behavior & Development* – Flom showed that both boys and girls begin to think about and discriminate gender stereotyped activities by their second birthday. In previous research, other scholars concluded that girls develop this trait earlier than boys. That earlier study, however, presented still photographs to kids, whereas Flom used video scenes which more closely represent real-life interactions.

"Infants know so much at a very young age," Flom said. "The question is, 'How can a child master so much in a few short years?'"

Couples' Mission Fulfills Desire
Continued from pg. 44

in the Church, and his descendants weren't Church members.

"[This sister] never stopped to think that she had a great uncle that didn't go on, and she couldn't quit thinking about that. She went home and, in less than three weeks, found 300 of his descendants and submitted their names to be done in the Winter Quarters Temple," Brother McBride says.

The Kanesville Tabernacle was built for a conference at which President Brigham Young was sustained as the second president and prophet of the Church. It is also the site where Oliver Cowdery returned and gained approval to be re-baptized.

"When you tell about Oliver Cowdery—the second Elder of the church and one of the three witnesses—who later left the church and some of the events that led to his return, you get a special feeling every time," Clarence says.

The McBrides spent three days a week at each center and one night a week working in the Winter Quarters Temple. They worked with the sister missionaries and enjoyed their association with them.

"When [the sister missionaries] gave the tours, I could hear their testimonies. It made us stronger and we had to be better examples," says Joan.

One sister, who was from Tahiti and spoke French, was able to teach and help convert several French-speaking young men from Nigeria.

"It was just great to watch her blossom," says Joan.

This sister's parents had died without the gospel and the McBrides got to be there when she was sealed to her parents in the Winter Quarters Temple.

"It was a special experience," says Joan.

While they missed a lot of family activities while they were in Nebraska, Sister McBride says, "We were glad we were on our mission."

Brother McBride agrees, "It's just a special experience being able to spend almost every waking hour doing the Lord's work."

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LDS Family Finances

by
Robert F. Farwell

Don't Rush Into Equity-Indexed Annuities

Every so often, a new investment product comes along and attracts a lot of interest—but not a lot of scrutiny—from investors. That might be the case with "equity-indexed annuities." Sales of this insurance product have grown dramatically in recent years, but evidence may suggest that many investors aren't aware of all the facts before they buy.

ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- An equity-indexed annuity (EIA) actually has characteristics of both fixed annuities, which pay a fixed rate of return, and variable annuities, with returns that depend on the investment options selected. An EIA provides a minimum guaranteed interest rate (guarantees are backed by the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company) combined with an interest rate linked to a market index, such as the S & P 500.
- The EIA's interest rate is typically lower than that of a fixed annuity. However, due to the market-index factor, an EIA offers potentially higher returns than a fixed annuity—along with a higher level of risk. On the other hand, an EIA is generally less risky than a variable annuity; yet, at the same time, its "upside" potential is more limited as well.
- While the EIA may appear to have some attractive features, investors should take a close look at an EIA before purchasing by going to the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD) Web site at www.nasd.com and typing in "equity-indexed annuities" in the search area.

A FEW OTHER ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- Complexity—An EIA is not a simple product to grasp. That's primarily because the return does not perfectly correspond to the market index to which the annuity is linked. Instead, the index-linked interest rate you receive will depend on the terms of the contract. You need to understand the calculation used to determine what percentage of the index gain will be credited and what limits apply. (Most EIAs put a cap on the return you're allowed to earn.) There are also several methods used to determine the change in the index, which can affect the calculation. Finally, most EIAs only count the index gains from market price changes, excluding any gains from dividends. These variables mean that you could receive less than what you expect.
- Access to your money—If you cash out your EIA early, you may have to pay a sizable surrender charge (and a 10 percent penalty tax if you're under 59-1/2). Some EIAs also require you to forfeit your index-linked interest if you surrender your contract early or choose not to begin taking payments when the contract matures. Together, these charges can reduce, or erase, your return.
- Lack of regulation—Unlike variable annuities, EIAs are generally structured so they are not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). In addition, EIAs are primarily sold by individuals who are not registered to sell securities; these individuals may not look at your entire financial picture before recommending an EIA.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

Do your homework before making any EIA purchase decision. If you're an annuity buyer looking for a guaranteed rate of return, you should probably consider a fixed annuity. If you want some equity exposure, then a variable annuity may be your best choice. If you owned both, you could get the guaranteed rate of return you need and the upside potential you desire.

Editor's note: Robert F. Farwell is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones. Edward Jones offers its clients a variety of investments, including certificates of deposit, bonds, stocks and mutual funds. To contact Brother Farwell call (480) 834-3119.

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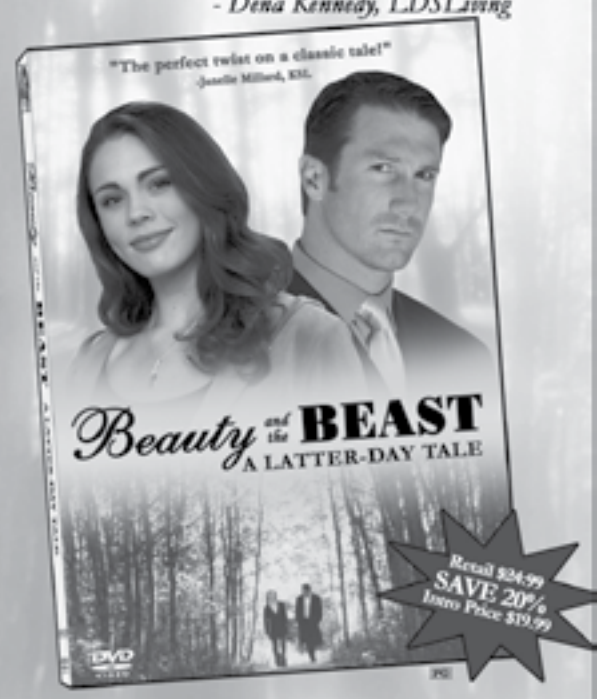

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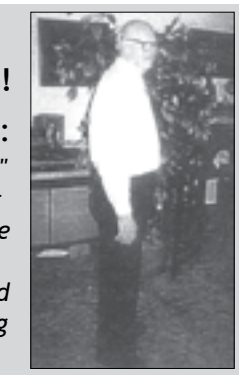

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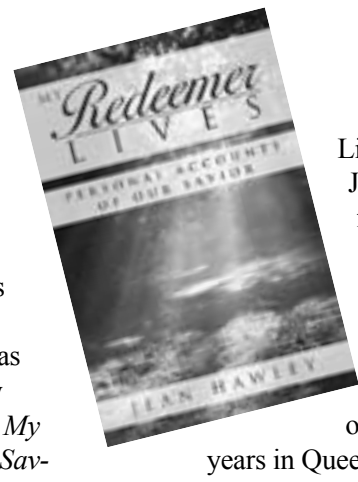
Chandler woman's *book* shares accounts of the *Savior's kindness*

In her recently published book, "My Redeemer Lives," Jean Hawley, of Chandler, shares stories from LDS leaders and others who have felt the Savior's guidance in their lives.

Photo courtesy of Spring Creek Book Company

By Sarah Hinze
The Beehive



For several years, Jean Hawley, of the Pleasant Third Ward, Chandler Arizona West Stake, gathered uplifting stories from the lives of past LDS leaders as well as messages from everyday people who have personally felt the Savior's guidance.

Now, many years after she started, she has compiled those stories into a book. Recently published by Spring Creek Book Company, *My Redeemer Lives: Personal Accounts of Our Savior,* includes uplifting testimonies of the Savior's kindness. Included in Sister Hawley's book are stories Elder Orson F. Whitney's vision of Gethsemane, a Jewish man's surprising path to Christianity, a young mother's heavenly protection from dark influences, Mary Rollins Lightner's testimony of the Savior's visit during a meeting of early LDS Church members, and many others.

Sister Hawley hopes this inspiring book will help readers comprehend the Lord's great love and concern for each of us.

Born and raised in Liverpool, England, Jean was a personal friend of John Lennon and attended school with Paul McCartney, of the Beatles.

Jean and her family joined the church in England when Jean was only 10 years old. She later spent several years in Queensland, Australia, before moving to the United States.

During that time, she had many prayers answered and, as recorded in her book, she gained a testimony of the reality of the Father and the Son. She had a strong desire to share that testimony.

"During my own trials I had the experience of feeling the Savior's love for us and knowing that he was interested in my situation," she says. "I felt impressed to share this knowledge with those who would benefit, as I had, by understanding our relationship with Him."

Jean continues, "The stories that people shared with me helped me to an even greater understanding of how much our Savior does care for us. He is love! I know that He lives and that He will be there for us when we need Him. He is always watching over us."

Jean and her husband, Jim, recently returned from a fulltime mission to California, where they served as directors of the family history center. They are the parents of 10 children and a growing cluster of grandchildren. They currently reside in Chandler where they serve as family history specialists.

My Redeemer Lives: Personal Accounts of Our Savior is available from the publisher's Web site at w ww.springcreekbooks.com and at local LDS bookstores.

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From the Editor's Desktop

By Cecily Markland

Standing Strong

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The steel bar—itself weighing more than 30 pounds—bent and bowed in submission several long seconds before, at the insistence of the young man's prepared muscles, the heavy plates left the floor. With a "clean" and a "jerk," the muscles won out, wielding the weight high overhead.

As the crowd cheered his strength, only the most observant viewers saw hints of the struggle as arm muscles responded with a barely noticeable ripple and a glistening of perspiration was just beginning to show on his forehead.

For my track star daughter, hers were exhibitions strong on endurance. Watching her run was like witnessing a voluminous river race down a steep incline. She moved with flow and grace, with a steady, even, unstoppable power.

For runners the finish line, always telling, may be most so during marathon runs. By then, four, five hours into the race, few can qualify to be called "runners" at that point—by then, they are walking—or trudging or dragging themselves—across the finish line; sweat-soaked, some even with their shirts bloodied from chafing against skin for more than 240 minutes straight. Some collapse just beyond the finish line, others gave in long before that. Yet, for each, the strength is in showing up for the race in the first place.

Certainly, strong comes in several shapes and in countless situations. Just weeks ago I watched some of the strongest women I know walk on coals. Really.

Watching someone choose to push their strength to its limits—to give it a go, to put their mettle to the test—is always amazing, always inspiring.

Yet, even more moving, perhaps, is watching strength show up when someone didn't sign up for it.

I've seen that in volumes this month as my oldest daughter and her husband received the news that the baby they are expecting is being called, simply, a "high risk pregnancy" by their doctors. For those doctors, the answer was "terminate" the pregnancy. For this young couple, the doctors' "answer" was out of the question.

From worry and concern, I've seen them move, in strength, to confidence and faith. I've seen her questioning, wondering how to be strong for her five- and three-year-old, yet, all the while, she's doing that very thing. Helpless to change things through force or by their own will, their strength has come from faith, from priesthood blessings and from submission to their Heavenly Father and confidence in His love.

This young couple has reminded me of what true strength looks like.

They're putting into practice what President Gordon B. Hinckley challenged us to do, when, in 1992, he said: "Be strong—in the faith by which you walk and in the Church of which each of us is a member. This is the work of God Almighty. It is the most precious of all causes. It needs your strength."

"Be strong."

They're doing it. And, thanks to their example, I'm doing better at it too.

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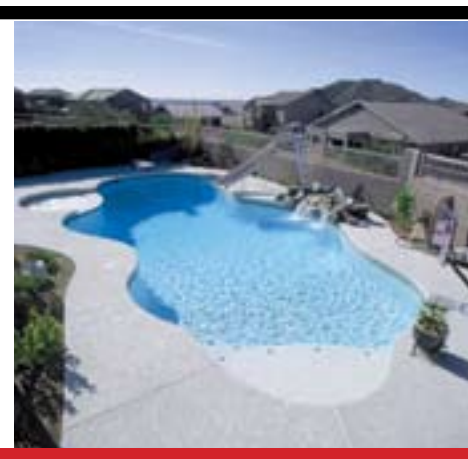

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Rhyme and Reason

By Linda Turley-Hansen

Return From Death's Door

Most of life's journey is mundane—if we're lucky. But, I know few who safely live in that sphere. A Chandler family is coming up on the first anniversary of a year of hell and miracles, a year that has forever altered their faith and—their lifestyle.

In truth, America was told of the turning point in the life of the Casey Johansen family. National headlines reported the collapse of a demolition site at the Phoenix Civic Plaza. Under that rubble was Chandler South Stake, Lindsay Ward member, Casey Johansen.

While working with a demolition team, thousands of pounds of concrete collapsed on his legs. Reports told of the suffering August heat and perilously dangerous conditions menacing the efforts of the Statewide Rapid Response Team. Casey, who remained conscious throughout the eight-hour ordeal, was kept alive by on-site doctors.

Once the 28-year-old father of two was carefully lifted from the site, his trauma was just beginning. He faced a recovery process doctors say most people would not have survived.

For three weeks Casey was kept in a drug-induced coma to allow life-saving, frequent surgeries. Eventually, it was clear that both legs, mid-thigh, must be amputated; bitter news, but his family maintained a quiet knowing. Wards, stakes and strangers prayed and fasted for the tenacious young man, who now nonchalantly muses that he missed the worst parts of the recovery, thanks to the coma therapy.

His mother, Margaret Johansen, of Mesa says: "He was in God's hands and I knew that. When they were trying to get him out of there, I still had the calm assurance that he was going to be fine. This isn't exactly what I would have chosen to be okay, but I accept it."

Casey's wife, Bethany Tanner Johansen, formerly of Ahwatukee, prepared herself to lose Casey and worried what she would tell their two children, Jack, then 3 months old and 3-year-old Hailey.

"I couldn't have done it without spiritual support," she says. At the time of the rescue, she knew they may need to cut Casey out of the debris—take his legs at the scene. She was accepting: "I don't need his legs, I just need him."

Their faith carried them every hour, every minute. In these circumstances, it takes numerous quiet miracles and simple decisions, as they would seem, especially by the medical caregivers to return Casey to his family.

The story requires the celebration of sensitive rescuers—and those conscientious doctors. Bethany wants to hug every firefighter she sees, now.

"And, it's so not my personality," she laughs.

Photo courtesy of Casey Johansen.

Casey Johansen, who was the subject of national news when he was trapped under the rubble at a demolition site at Phoenix Civic Plaza, says divine intervention saved his life and made it possible to again enjoy family time with his wife, Bethany Tanner Johansen; their 9-month-old son, Jack; and 4-year-old daughter, Hailey.

From the ordeal came new family friends. Two are Banner Good Samaritan doctor, Corey Detlefs, who rarely left Casey's side and Arizona Orthopedic Associates surgeon, Doug Hartzler. Hartzler, whose five children painted a stack of get well cards for Casey, told the family one morning, "I couldn't sleep all night. I kept going through my mind, and I decided we need to be aggressive with this."

Soon after, the amputation took place—a step that clearly saved Casey's life. The family came to understand Casey's doctors worked, not only from knowledge, but from something far greater.

Nearly six weeks after the accident, Casey entered rehab, determined to once again enjoy his favorite water sports and life as he knew it.

"I try not to focus on it," he tells me. "My intent is that it not hold me back—I'm going to go on being me; doing all that I used to do."

Without hesitation, the Johansen and Tanner families credit divine intervention for Casey's survival—Casey, who zips around in his wheelchair and is learning to use his prosthetics; Casey who's back at work, a quiet man of intrinsic strength. For sure, it will take a lifetime, and beyond, to fully comprehend the future challenges and gifts, handed a family, which was miraculously rescued from the reach of death.

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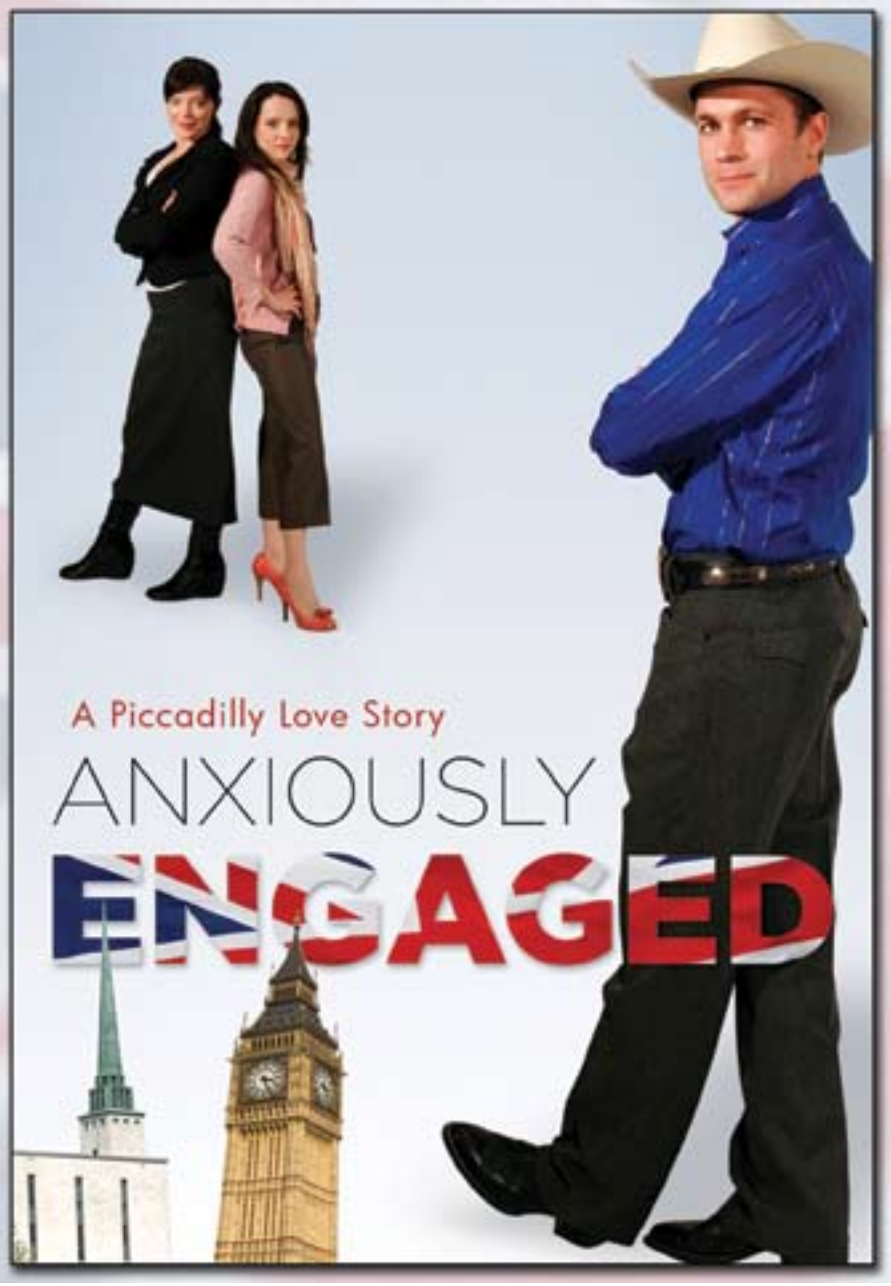

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